Beyond The Beyond™

Volume 4 • Yoshitomo Watanabe

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Beyond the Beyond

As Futaba, Belbel, Kiara, and Virid continue their journey to find Kiara's master, Kiara hears her master's voice calling out to her! He is trapped somewhere in Jipusamu, the White Country, and instructs Kiara to "look for the bird." Later, the group crosses paths with a servant of Virid's older brother, who has come to take Virid to his brother so that they can settle once and for all who is going to succeed to the throne. The magical journey continues—stretching to far reaches of one's imagination...and beyond!

Beyond the Beyond

Yoshitomo Watanabe's SONO MUKOU-NO MUKOUGAWA

Yoshitomo Watanabe

04

Beyond the Beyond

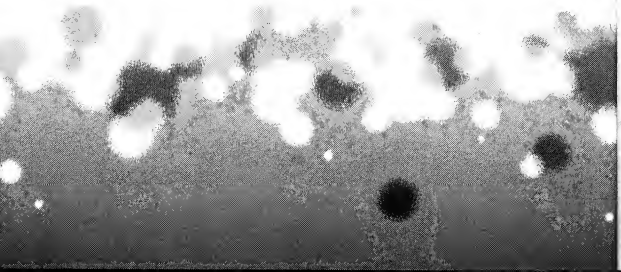
Volume 4
by
Yoshitomo Watanabe

Story So Far...

When Futaba suddenly finds himself ushered into a strange, new world, he meets up with Kiara the Amaranthine, who initially mistakes Futaba for her new master. Now Futaba is stuck in this extraordinary world--and his only hope for returning home is to find Kiara's true master! During their journey, they encounter a rabbit-like wizard named Lady Belbel, and Virid--the prince of Viridian. They're all aware that the Amaranthine can summon enormous power when joined with her master, but poor Futaba just hopes that this missing master can open the portal that will allow him to get back to his own world...

WHY AM I SO WEAK....

I FEEL SO POWERLESS. I FEAR I AM NOT GOOD ENOUGH TO FIGHT FOR YOU OR PROTECT YOU...



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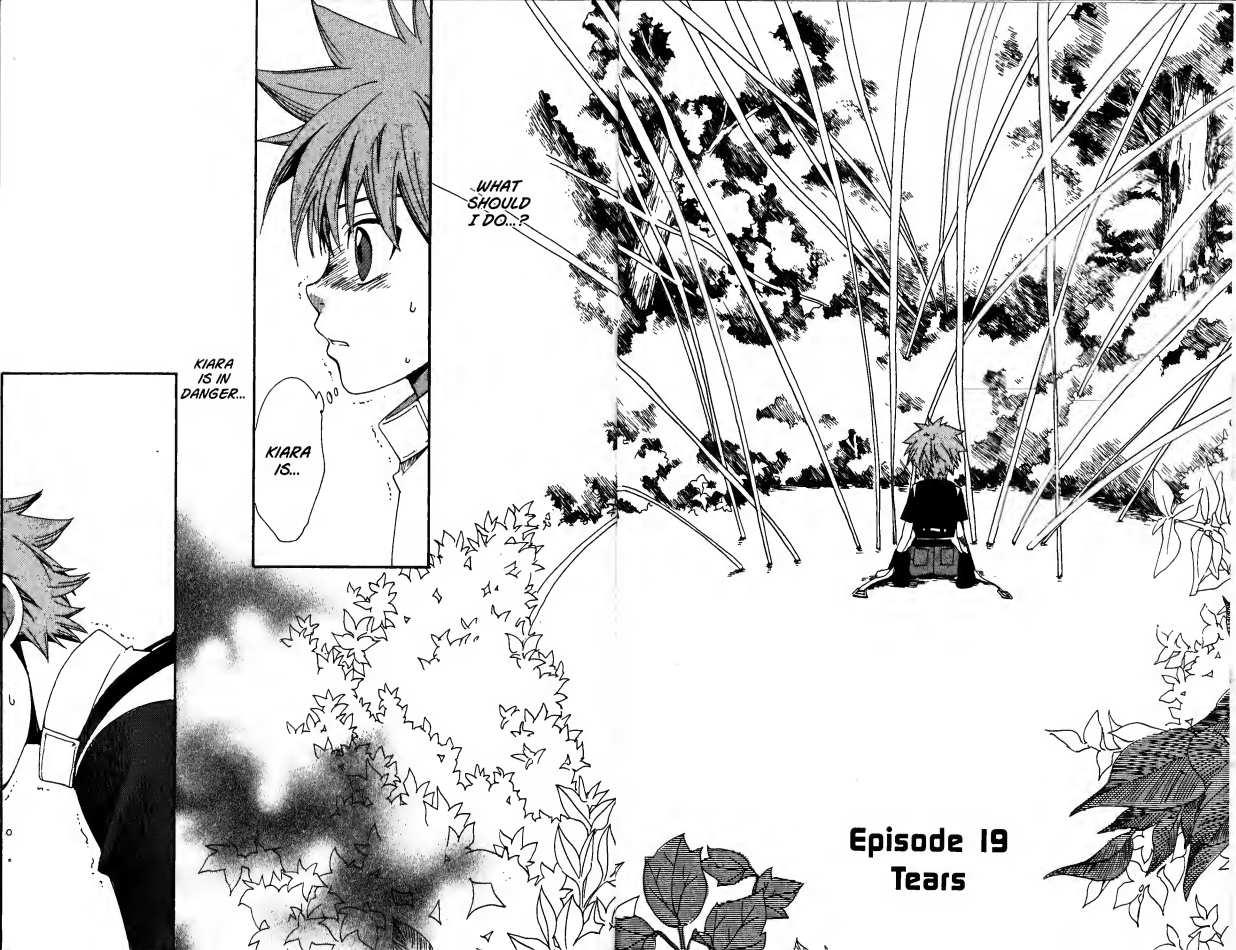
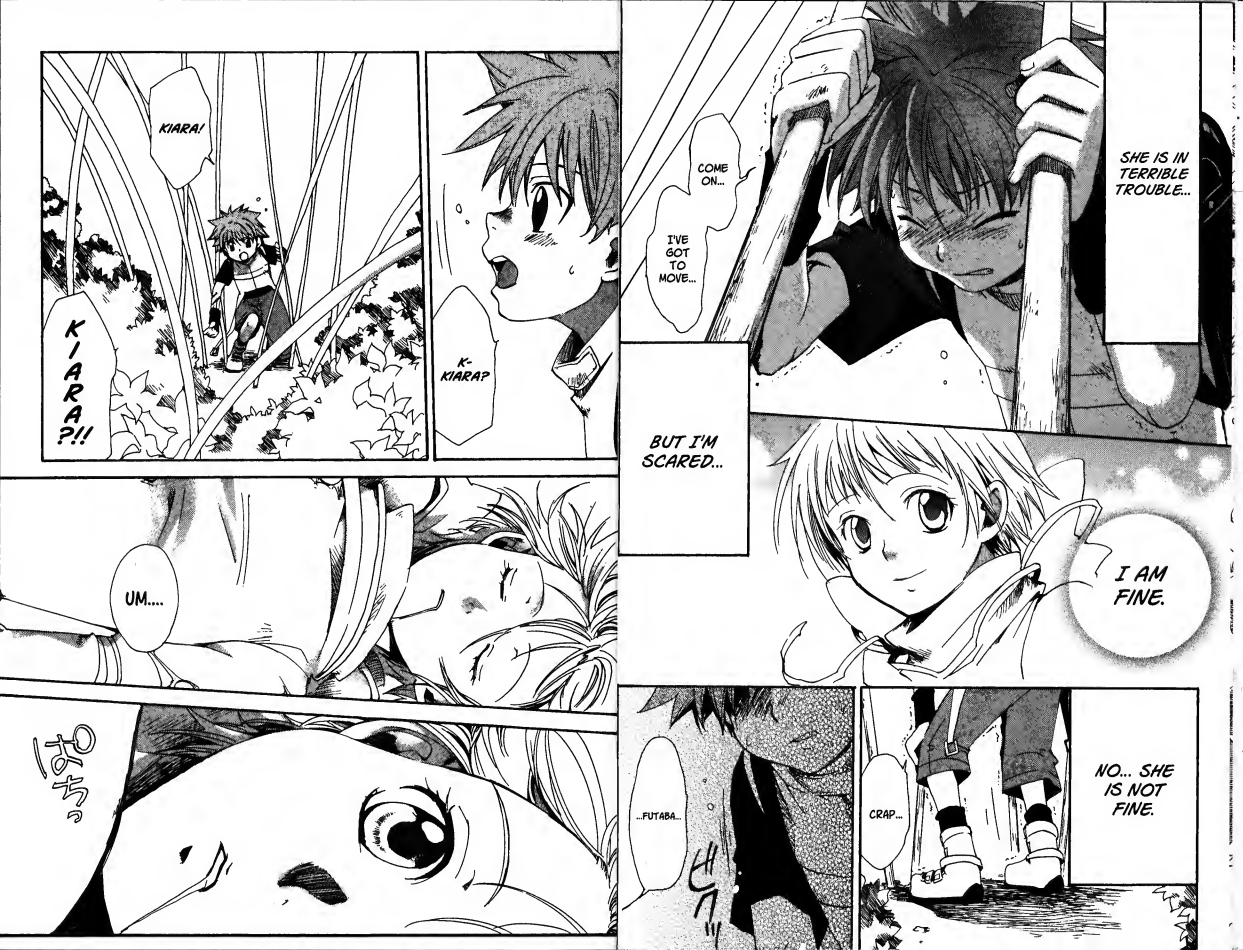


Episode 19
Tears

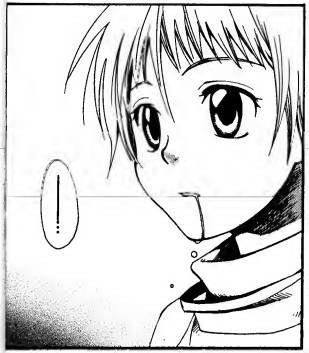

KIARA!
K-KIARA?
KIARA?!!
SHE IS IN TERRIBLE TROUBLE...
COME ON...
I'VE GOT TO MOVE...
BUT I'M SCARED...
I AM FINE.
UM....
ぱちっ
...FUTABA...
CRAP...
NO... SHE IS NOT FINE.

JUST SO YOU KNOW, YOU ARE BLEEDING... I MEAN...
IT... IT ALMOST LOOKS LIKE SAP !!
RELAX... ...REMEMBER...

THESE PLANTS NOW UNDERSTAND...
...THAT I AM NOT THEIR ENEMY.
AND THAT I AM NOT RUNNING AWAY...

...UMMM!

I AM A FLOWER.
FLOWERS NEVER DIE FROM SUCH A SMALL WOUND.
TRUST ME, I'LL BE FINE.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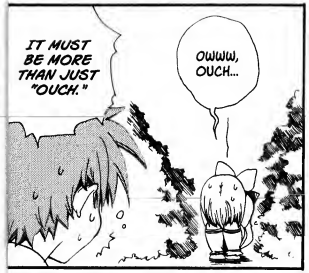
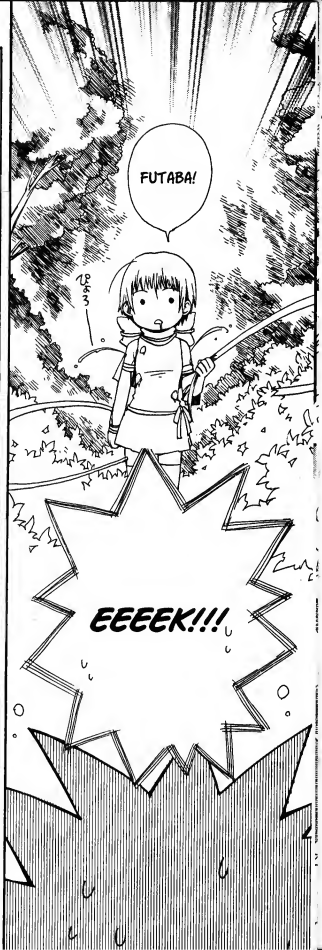

OWWW, OUCH...
IT MUST BE MORE THAN JUST "OUCH."

KIARA...?
DON'T WORRY, I AM FINE...

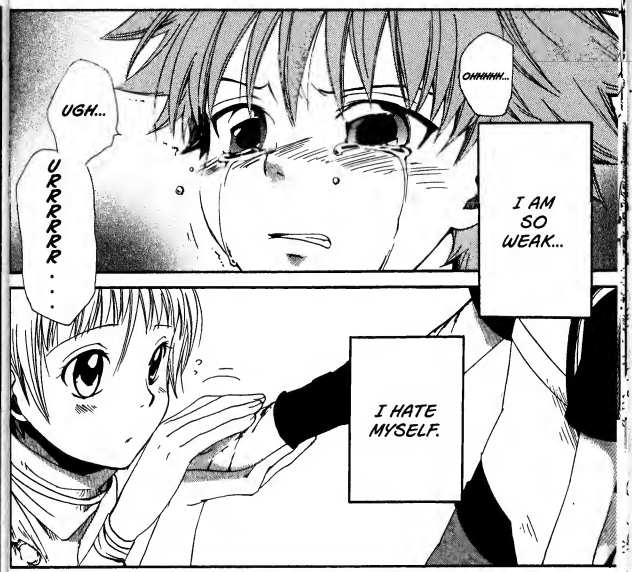

FUTABA!
EEEEK!!!

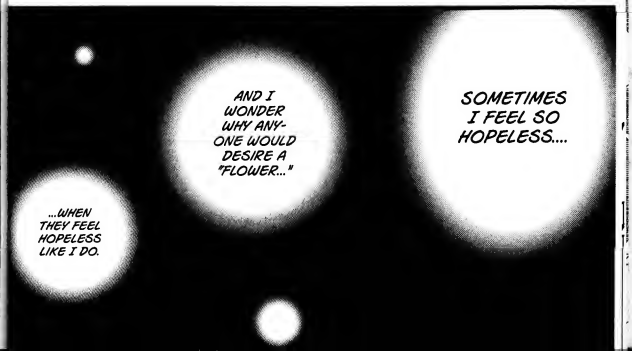
...I'M SORRY.
REALLY, I AM, FUTABA.
DON'T BE A FOOL!
KIARA, YOU JUST SAID "OUCH!!"
YOU ARE NOT FINE!!
EVEN IF YOU THINK YOU ARE FINE, I AM NOT! I HATE SEEING YOU IN ANY SORT OF PAIN!
I CAN TOLERATE MY OWN INJURIES...
...BUT I CAN'T STAND TO SEE YOU SUFFERING!!
I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU WERE HURTING, TOO.

ARE YOU HURTING?
SORRY THAT I CANNOT BETTER PROTECT YOU...
UGH...
THANK YOU FOR HELPING ME...
I AM JUST SO HAPPY KIARA IS OKAY!
OH NO...
WAAAH!!

...FUTABA?
...UM...
I'M SORRY...

...FUTABA?


OHHHHH...
I AM SO WEAK...
UGH...
URRRRRR...
I HATE MYSELF.


SOMETIMES I FEEL SO HOPELESS....
AND I WONDER WHY ANY-ONE WOULD DESIRE A "FLOWER..."
...WHEN THEY FEEL HOPELESS LIKE I DO.

!
TAP
SAY YOUR PRAYERS!
PRINCE VIRID.

DID I MAKE A WRONG TURN?

YOU MUST BE AN ASSASSIN FROM VIRIDIAN...!?
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU FOLLOWED ME ALL THE WAY HERE!!
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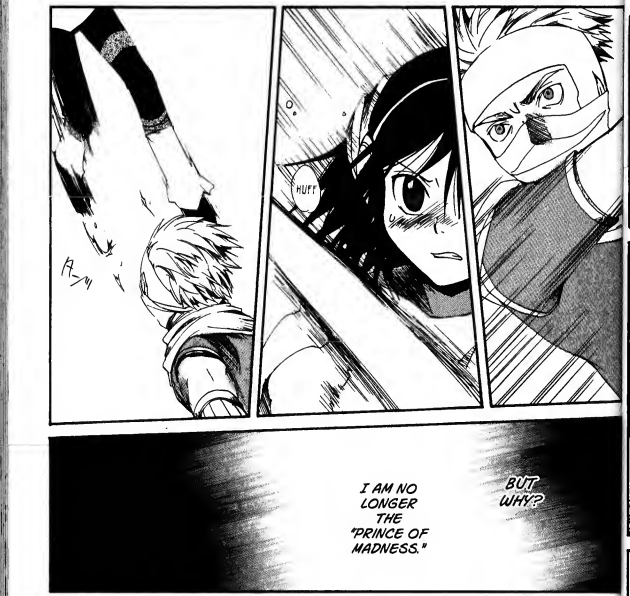
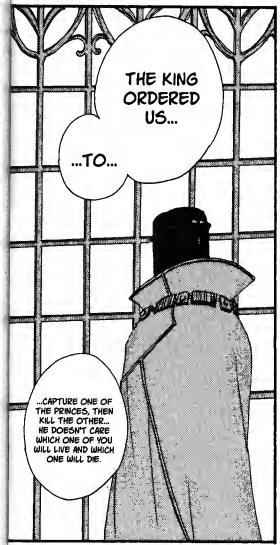

HUFF
BUT WHY?
I AM NO LONGER THE "PRINCE OF MADNESS."

YOU...
WHY DON'T THEY LEAVE ME ALONE?

YOU MUST...
...KILL ME, HUH?

URGH...
HOW STRONG HE IS FOR SUCH A MERE CHILD...

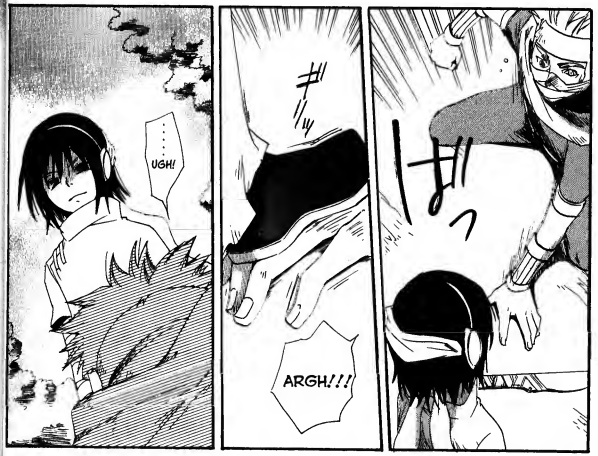

THE KING ORDERED US...
...TO...
...CAPTURE ONE OF THE PRINCES, THEN KILL THE OTHER... HE DOESN'T CARE WHICH ONE OF YOU WILL LIVE AND WHICH ONE WILL DIE.

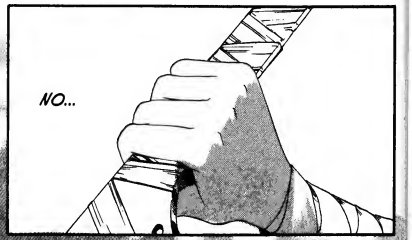
DO YOU EVEN KNOW...
...WHICH VIRID I AM?

NOPE. SURE DON'T.

MY OWN FATHER MADE THAT ORDER?
THEREFORE...
THEREFORE I MUST...
YES, THE OTHER PRINCE VIRID HAS ALREADY BEEN CAPTURED IN AZAH.

YOU ARE....
...WEAK.
"PRINCE OF...
MADNESS..."

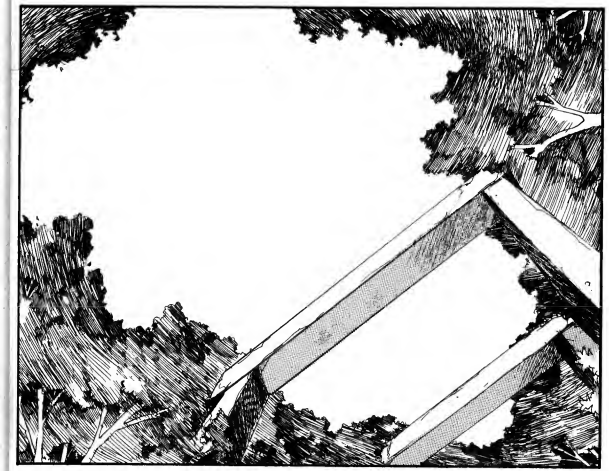

UGH!
ARGH!!!



NO...!

VIRID!!!

NO...



WHAT WAS THAT?
HUFF
HUFF
FUTABA...
FUTABA...
HUFF
WE SHOULD JUST KILL EVERYBODY.
...NO...
BUT THE OTHER VIRID WAS AT FAULT...

Ay
ㅋㅋㅋ

Episode 20
The Other Side

HELP!!
!OOOOOOO!
HELP ME!
FUTABA...

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
……
……
ぺたっ
ぺたっ
ぺたっ

TWITCH

FUTABA..

.....

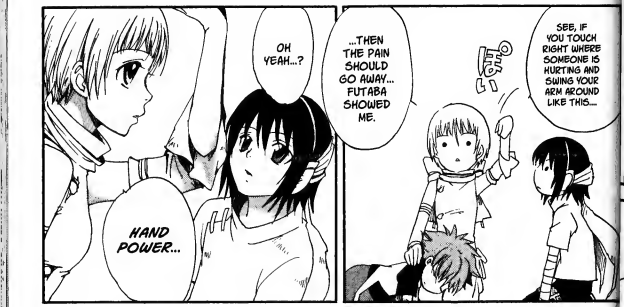
ARE YOU WOUNDED?
?

ぼん
?

なでなで
?
?

HE IS ONLY SLEEPING.
AFTER CRYING, HE GOT TIRED...
HE IS FINE.

.....
.....
CHEEW


HAND POWER...
OH YEAH...?
...THEN THE PAIN SHOULD GO AWAY... FUTABA SHOWED ME.
ぽい
SEE, IF YOU TOUCH RIGHT WHERE SOMEONE IS HURTING AND SWING YOUR ARM AROUND LIKE THIS...

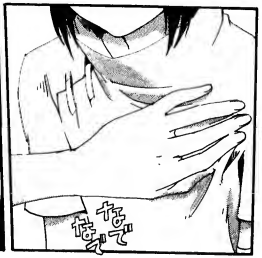
...NOT EVEN OUR FUTABA...
SADLY, NO ONE IS QUITE ABLE DO THAT....
...ONE COULD HEAL ONE'S BROKEN HEART SO EASILY....
IT WOULD BE NICE IF...

THEN...
.....

NO....
I ESCAPED UNINJURED.

...IT MUST BE YOUR HEART.
ぺた

IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE A MAGIC SPELL...
WHAT IS THIS?
？？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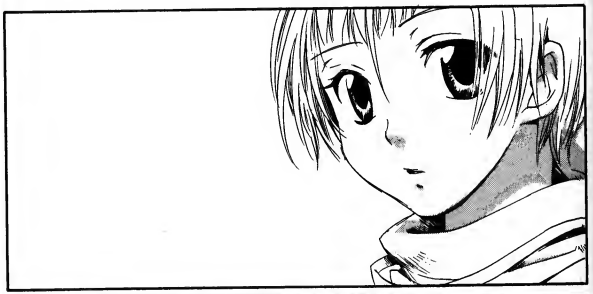
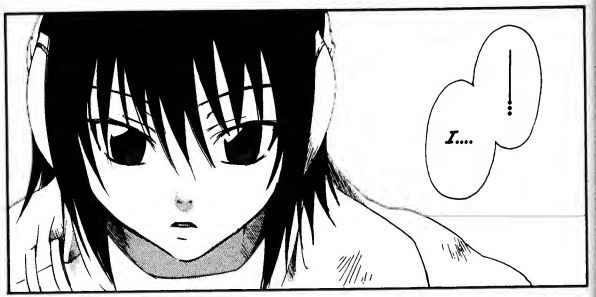


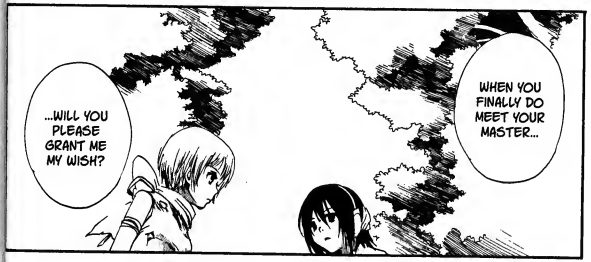

I....

I WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO GO TO THE OTHER SIDE...
...BACK TO WHERE FUTABA CAME FROM.

.....?

AT THIS VERY MOMENT..
NO ONE CAN FIX... PEOPLE'S BROKEN HEARTS...
I CAME TO REALIZE...

...KIARA.
...THAT THIS IS WHEN PEOPLE TRULY DESIRE TO POSSESS "A FLOWER"... RIGHT WHEN THEY ARE FEELING JUST LIKE THIS!!


...WILL YOU PLEASE GRANT ME MY WISH?
WHEN YOU FINALLY DO MEET YOUR MASTER...

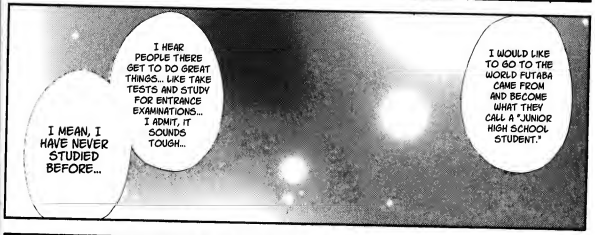
GIVE ME YOUR PINKY.

?

THIS WORLD HAS ALREADY DESERTED ME!
SO THERE SHOULDN'T BE TOO MANY HARD FEELINGS.

THE OTHER SIDE...

ARE YOU SO READY TO DESERT THIS WORLD?


I MEAN, I HAVE NEVER STUDIED BEFORE...
I HEAR PEOPLE THERE GET TO DO GREAT THINGS... LIKE TAKE TESTS AND STUDY FOR ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS... I ADMIT, IT SOUNDS TOUGH...
I WOULD LIKE TO GO TO THE WORLD FUTABA CAME FROM AND BECOME WHAT THEY CALL A "JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT."

AND I NO LONGER FEEL THAT'S POSSIBLE FOR ME IN THIS WORLD ANYMORE.
BUT I WOULD LIKE TO TRY MANY NEW THINGS...

BECAUSE... YOU'VE BEEN A BIG HELP TO ME...

WHEN AND IF I FINALLY MEET MY MASTER, I WILL BEG HIM TO LET ME GRANT YOU THIS...

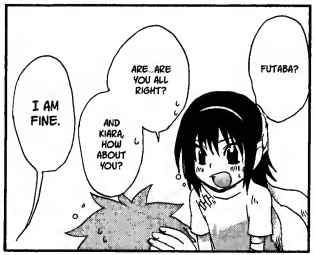
"THEY MUST FIGHT EACH OTHER UNTIL ONE OF THEM DIES. ONLY THE WINNER WILL BE GIVEN THE RIGHT TO THE THRONE..."
....WHAT?
VIRID WANTS TO GO WITH ME TO JUNIOR HIGH?
I AM SO SAD FOR VIRID... HE HAS LIVED SUCH A HARD LIFE.
YEAH... THAT SOUNDS GOOD... THAT WOULD BE FUN...
I WILL ASK KIARA'S MASTER MYSELF, TOO.
SURELY THEN VIRID AND I CAN RETURN TO THE OTHER SIDE TOGETHER.
I AM SURE...
OF COURSE.
AND YOU'LL SEE TO IT FUBATA GETS BACK HOME!
...MY MASTER WILL UNDERSTAND.
I SENSE THINGS WILL WORK OUT JUST FINE.
...I SURE HOPE SO.

YES...I MET HIM EARLIER...
I MEAN, I MET THE MASTER OF THIS FOREST. HIS NAME IS POL-POKA...
THE MASTER OF THIS LAND BELIEVES WE ARE HIS "ENEMIES..."
I'm fine.
I told ya,
WE NEED TO STOP THIS FIGHTING AND GET OUT OF HERE IMMEDIATELY...
BELBEL SAID...
THIS IS WHERE THE AMARANTHINE FIRST LANDED...
BUT WHY? I STILL...
...DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY HE ATTACKED KIARA.
Thanks!

I CAN'T WAIT TO MEET KIARA'S MASTER...
I JUST KNOW HE IS GOING TO MAKE ALL OF US HAPPY.

UH-OH. THIS IS NOT A GOOD TIME TO CRY!!
...LETS GO!

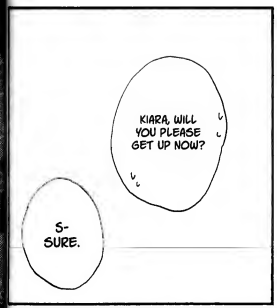
HE MUST STILL BE WITH HIS APPRENTICE.
I know...
Hey, your bandage is coming undone.
BY THE WAY, VIRID... WHERE IS BELBEL ANYWAY?

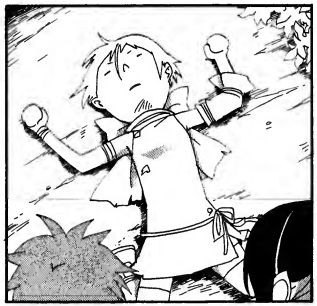

I AM FINE.
ARE...ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
AND KIARA, HOW ABOUT YOU?
FUTABA?

Episode 21
Colorful Forest

I COULD SENSE NOT ONLY ANGER FROM HIM...
BUT A VERY DEEP SADNESS AS WELL...

THIS FOREST IS SURROUNDED BY THE MIST OF SORROW...

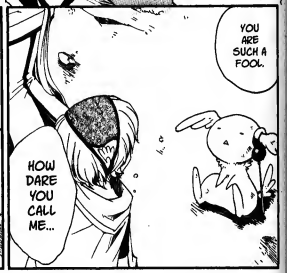

KIARA, WILL YOU PLEASE GET UP NOW?
S-SURE.



ふら…
MASTER...
I KNOW THIS IS NOT CAUSED BY THE MIST.
I FEEL SO DIZZY..
hm...
HUH...?
SUDDENLY I HAVE DIFFICULTY..
..EVEN BREATHING.

THAT FOREST IS ON THE BRINK OF DEATH... IT CANNOT PRODUCE OR RETAIN WATER ANY MORE.
AND WHY?
THE AMARANTHINE! IT WAS THE INSIDIOUS AMARANTHINE WHICH CAUSED THE DEVASTATION OF THIS FOREST!

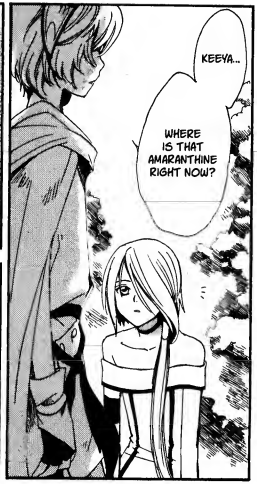
THAT WAS A DIFFERENT AMARANTHINE AND A DIFFERENT MASTER--WELL OVER 1000 YEARS AGO.
THE CURRENT AMARANTHINE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.


YOU ARE SUCH A FOOL.
HOW DARE YOU CALL ME...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
SHE IS STILL THE AMARANTHINE! NOTHING CAN CHANGE THAT!

...IS SHE STILL ALIVE?
HUFF

--YES.

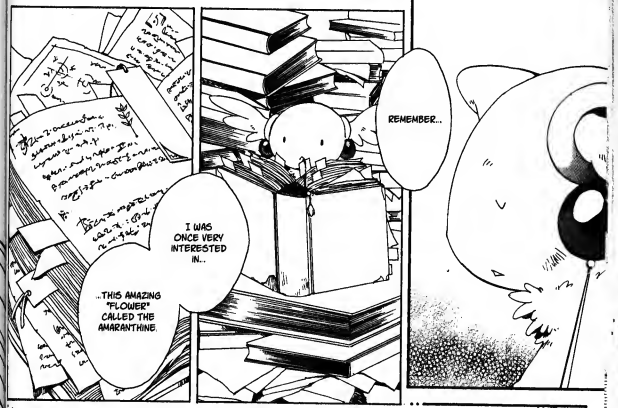

KEEVA...
WHERE IS THAT AMARANTHINE RIGHT NOW?

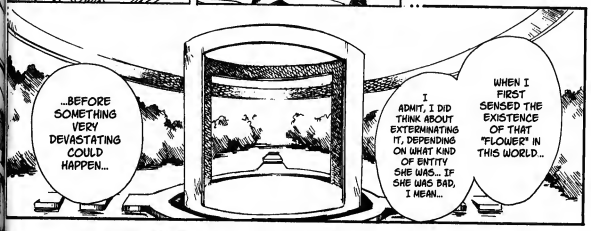
WHAT?
...THE TREES, THE SOIL, AND EVEN THE GRASSES...

STRANGE... I SENSE SHE IS NOW PROTECTED BY...
...NO... WAIT...
SHE'S PRESENTLY TRAPPED INSIDE POL-PORA'S FOREST...

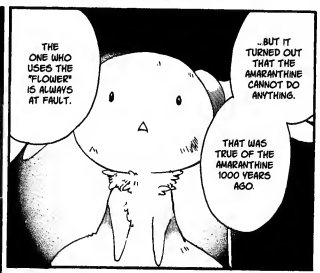
BECAUSE OF WHAT THE AMARANTHINE DID, TIME HAS BEEN STANDING STILL HERE IN POU-PORA.
I BET SHE IS STILL THE SAME AMARANTHINE.
I AM CERTAIN SHE IS HERE TO DISTORT THIS WORLD JUST LIKE SHE DID 1000 YEARS AGO.
BECAUSE AS YOU TOLD ME BEFORE, MASTER...
THE WORLD WILL BE A FAR BETTER PLACE WITHOUT THE AMARAN-THINE.
YOUR EXACT WORDS, MASTER!
BUT...
...WHY?
WHY DO YOU CARE... MASTER...?

NO MATTER WHAT HORRIBLE THING HAPPENS...
YOU MUST NOT BLAME THE "FLOWER."
KEEVA AND I ARE VERY DIFFERENT...
SURE EACH "MASTER/ FLOWER" PAIR IS UNIQUE.
BUT... KEEVA AND I ARE SPECIAL...


REMEMBER...
I WAS ONCE VERY INTERESTED IN..
..THIS AMAZING "FLOWER" CALLED THE AMARANTHINE.


WHEN I FIRST SENSED THE EXISTENCE OF THAT "FLOWER" IN THIS WORLD...
I ADMIT, I DID THINK ABOUT EXTERMINATING IT, DEPENDING ON WHAT KIND OF ENTITY SHE WAS... IF SHE WAS BAD, I MEAN...
...BEFORE SOMETHING VERY DEVASTATING COULD HAPPEN...

YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN? GURIJIO, THE MASTER OF THE "ELTURI..."
REMEMBER...


..BUT IT TURNED OUT THAT THE AMARANTHINE CANNOT DO ANYTHING.
THAT WAS TRUE OF THE AMARANTHINE 1000 YEARS AGO.
THE ONE WHO USES THE "FLOWER" IS ALWAYS AT FAULT.

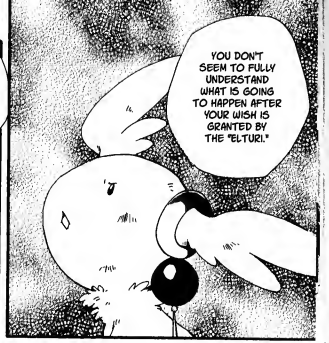
...SUCH A FOOL.

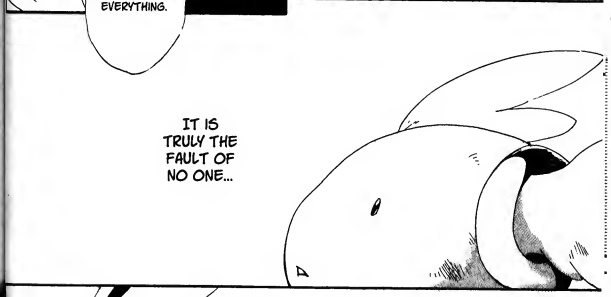
DO YOU REALLY WANT TO USE THE POWER OF THE FLOWER...
...TO LET THE "FLOWER" DIE...
...AT THE VERY EXPENSE OF YOUR OWN LIFE?

AGAIN, YOU CALLED ME A FOOL!
WHAT ELSE SHOULD I CALL YOU?

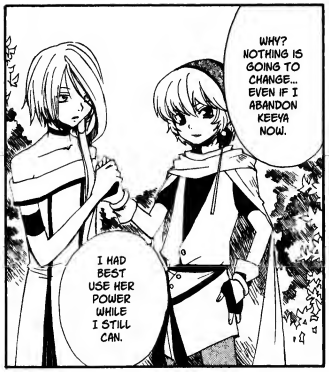
...BUT YOU OF ALL PEOPLE, MASTER...
YOU YOURSELF ONCE SAID YOU DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF GETTING WISHES GRANTED FOR NOTHING.
THE "ELTURI" IS MUCH MORE NATURAL THAN...
...ANY OF THE OTHER MORE CONVENIENT FLOWERS...

OF COURSE I DO.
THIS BREATHLESS-NESS..
THIS DIZZINESS...
I KNOW EVERYTHING.

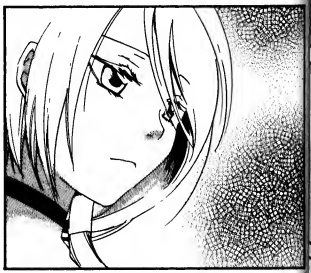

YOU DON'T SEEM TO FULLY UNDERSTAND WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN AFTER YOUR WISH IS GRANTED BY THE "ELTURI."


IT IS TRULY THE FAULT OF NO ONE...

SO DON'T UNDERESTIMATE ME AGAIN, MASTER.


WHY? NOTHING IS GOING TO CHANGE... EVEN IF I ABANDON KEEVA NOW.
I HAD BEST USE HER POWER WHILE I STILL CAN.

STOP! PLEASE DO NOT GO ANY FURTHER...
YOUR POWER IS NO LONGER...



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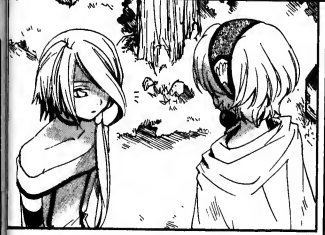
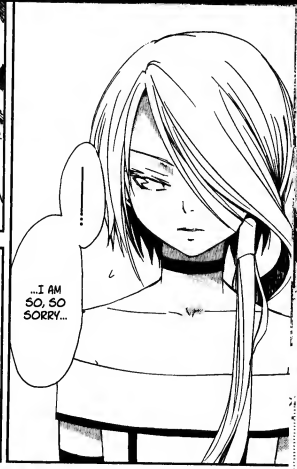
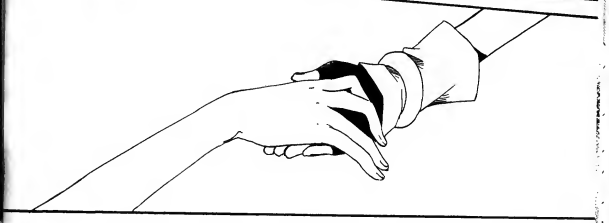
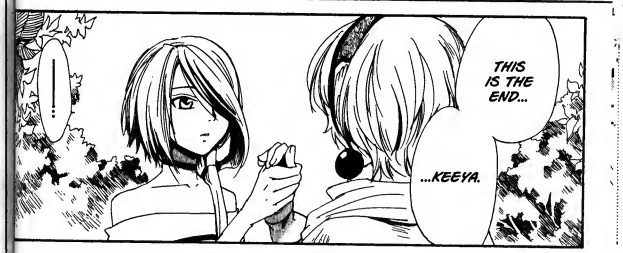


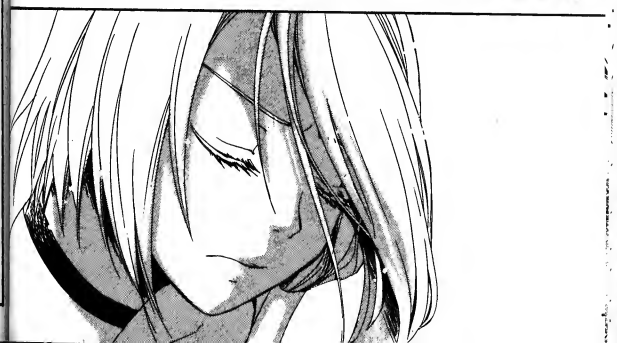
YOU DON'T HAVE TO APOLOGIZE.

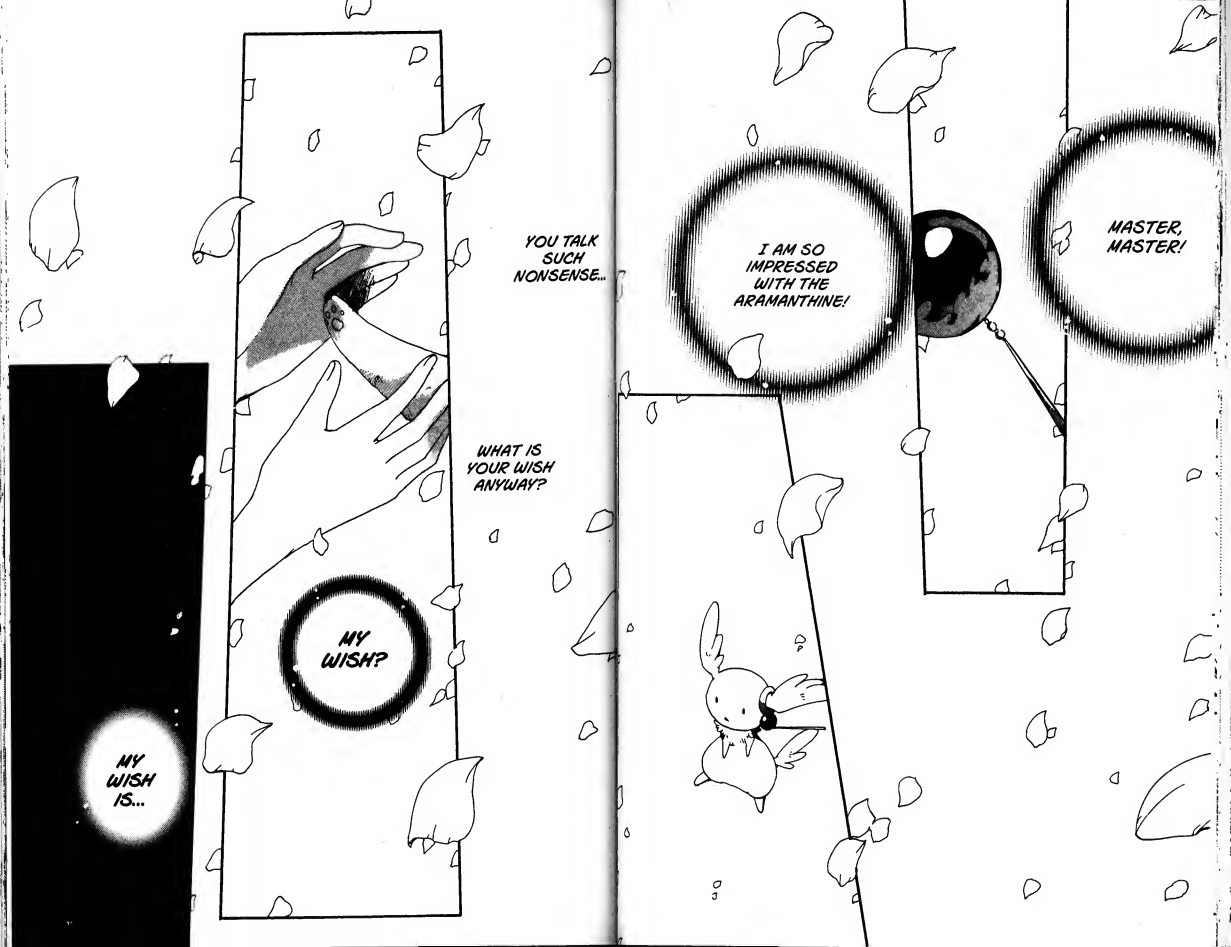

...I AM SO, SO SORRY...



I WANT MY OLD BODY BACK.
!


!
THIS IS THE END...
...KEEYA.

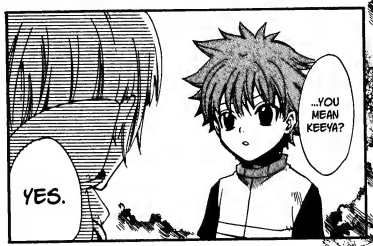


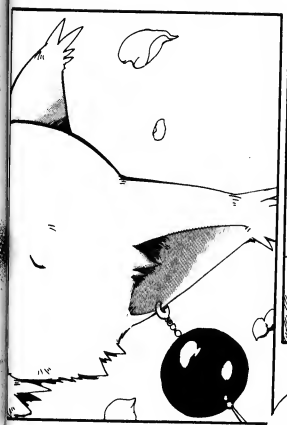

YOU TALK SUCH NONSENSE...
WHAT IS YOUR WISH ANYWAY?
MY WISH?
MY WISH IS...
I AM SO IMPRESSED WITH THE ARAMANTHINE!
MASTER, MASTER!

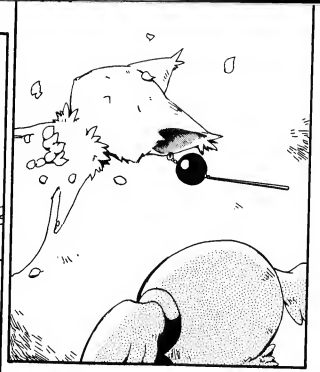
...TO FINALLY BECOME AN APPRENTICE MY MASTER IS PROUD OF...

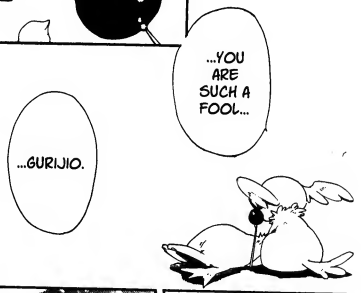
!

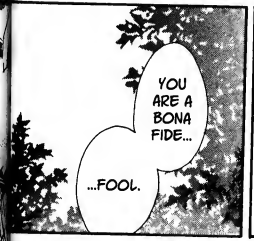
KIARA?
...THE "FLOWER"...
...HAS FALLEN.


...YOU MEAN KEEVA?
YES.






...YOU ARE SUCH A FOOL...
...GURIJIO.


YOU ARE A BONA FIDE...
...FOOL.

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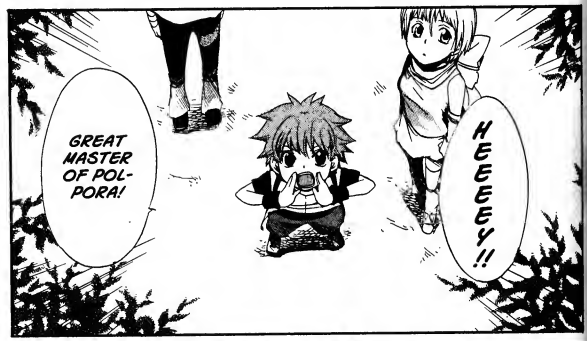
ALTHOUGH I AM VERY WORRIED ABOUT BELBEL, HE DID TELL US TO "GET OUT OF HERE!"
SO...
FIRST. WE NEED TO FIND OUR WAY OUT OF THIS FOREST... BUT...
I AM AFRAID THE MASTER OF POL-PORA COULD EASILY ATTACK US AGAIN.
NO!!!
IF THAT HAPPENS, I WILL ACT AS DECOY ONCE AGAIN.
NO!!!
THIS TIME, THOUGH, I WILL DO A BETTER JOB RUNNING AWAY FROM HIM...

DIDN'T HE WANT TO BECOME A HUMAN?
BELBEL'S APPRENTICE HAD A WISH, TOO.
THEN...
BELBEL'S APPRENTICE MUST ALSO BE...
I WONDER IF...
...BELBEL IS OKAY.
LET'S SEE...
WHAT SHALL WE DO NOW?
I THOUGHT HE WANTED TO TERMINATE THE AMARANTHINE.
YEAH... I AM NOT REALLY SURE THOUGH.
OH... WELL...
Ouch!

すうう。
...ALL RIGHT...


GREAT MASTER OF POL-PORA!
HEEEEY!!

NOW WHY DID I THINK THIS WOULD WORK...?
...OH WELL...
AH!

Master...
Master...
Master...

AH...

HOW ABOUT WE CALL AND CONFRONT HIM? LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH!
NO!!!

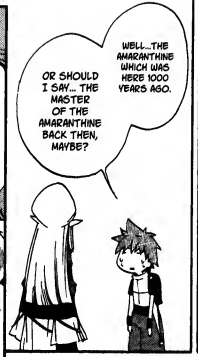
YOU KNOW...
...HE COULD BE...
..SOMEONE JUST LIKE THE GUY IN THAT ONE CITY...
NOPE... THAT'S NOT A GOOD IDEA.
AND I AM GOING TO DEFEAT HIM!
WAIT, THAT'S A GREAT IDEA!
THE QUESTION IS HOW TO CALL UPON HIM SO HE WILL SHOW UP... UMMM...

Episode 22
Dream I Had A Long Time Ago

THIS FOREST...
...AND THIS GUY IS JUST LIKE HIM...
...THIS PLACE IS...
...SO STRANGE... EVERYTHING HERE IS PURPLE AND THE LEAVES ARE LIKE GLASS.
CERTAINLY BEAUTIFUL, IT IS TRUE... AND YET, THERE IS NOTHING ELSE HERE.
NOTHING LIVES HERE?
I MEAN... I DON'T HEAR ANY BIRDS OR INSECTS...
MEANING HE MUST BE ALL BY HIMSELF, TOO...

THE MASTER OF THE TOWN WITH NO RESIDENTS...
AMARANTHINE...
CAN YOU GRANT MY WISH?
I ONLY HAVE ONE WISH.
THE SAD, LONELY BOY WHO PERISHED...
...WITH HIS WISH UNREALIZED.

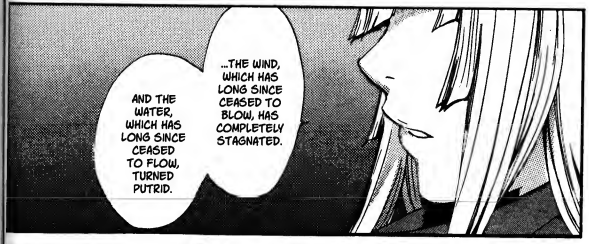
...IN EITHER CASE.

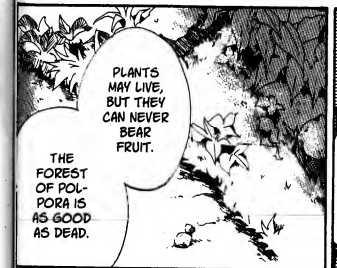

OR SHOULD I SAY... THE MASTER OF THE AMARANTHINE BACK THEN, MAYBE?
WELL...THE AMARANTHINE WHICH WAS HERE 1000 YEARS AGO.

BUT...
YOU CAN'T BLAME KIARA FOR THAT.
WHO ELSE IS THERE TO BLAME?

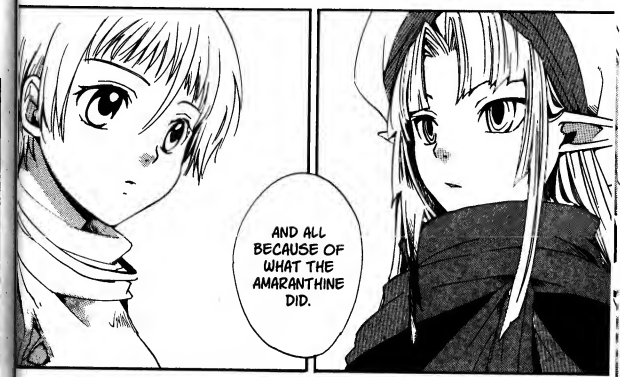
...WHAT IS YOUR WISH?
ALL I WANT TO KNOW IS...
THAT'S NOT THE ISSUE HERE.

I AM SURE....
...YOU HAVE A WISH, TOO.


...THE WIND, WHICH HAS LONG SINCE CEASED TO BLOW, HAS COMPLETELY STAGNATED.
AND THE WATER, WHICH HAS LONG SINCE CEASED TO FLOW, TURNED PUTRID.


PLANTS MAY LIVE, BUT THEY CAN NEVER BEAR FRUIT.
THE FOREST OF POL-PORA IS AS GOOD AS DEAD.

HUH...?
NOTHING CAN SURVIVE IN THIS ONCE GREAT FOREST.


AND ALL BECAUSE OF WHAT THE AMARANTHINE DID.

.....
I KNEW YOU WANTED TO BRING THIS FOREST BACK TO ITS ORIGINAL STATE!
IT USED TO BE A NORMAL FOREST 1000 YEARS AGO, RIGHT?
THERE USED TO BE GREEN TREES AND PLANTS AND ANIMALS WERE EVERYWHERE...
...AH..
WHAT'S WRONG?
STRANGE, I CANNOT EVEN RECALL.
WHAT?

PLEASE TELL US...
...WHAT YOUR WISH IS...
PLEASE, PERHAPS I COULD HELP YOU.
...CERTAINLY...
...WHAT WAS CAUSED BY THE AMARANTHINE CAN ONLY BE REVERSED BY THE AMARANTHINE.
KIARA...!

...HAVE YOU SIMPLY FORGOTTEN?
!
I DO NOT KNOW.
DO YOU WANT TO BECOME WHAT YOU USED TO BE?
...COULD I REALLY?
I CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER WHAT I USED TO BE...
IF YOU CAN GO BACK, WHY DON'T YOU RECREATE THE FOREST?
YOU CAN START ALL OVER AGAIN!

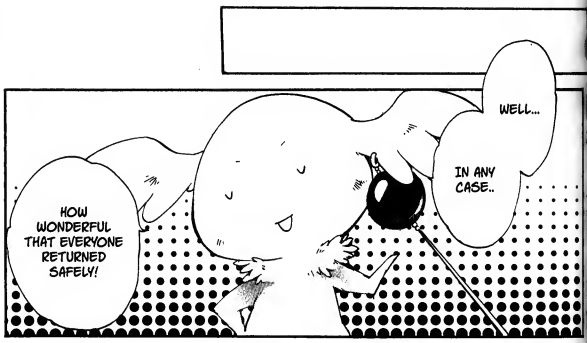
I CANNOT EVEN REMEMBER...
...WHAT I WAS ORIGINALLY LIKE.
1000 YEARS AGO...
BEFORE THE AMARANTHINE CAME TO THIS FOREST...
FUNNY, I CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT THIS FOREST WAS LIKE...

YOU ARE THE MASTER OF ALL THE TREES AND PLANTS HERE. THEY ARE WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
LISTEN TO THEIR VOICES...
TO THEIR WISHES...
THEIR VOICES...
CLEAN WATER RUNNING THROUGH... THE WIND BLOWING...
LOTS OF NUTS AND MANY BIRDS!
THINK ABOUT HOW YOU WOULD LIKE THIS FOREST TO BE!
THINK ABOUT WHAT YOUR IDEAL FOREST IS LIKE.
YOU ARE DOING FINE.
!
DON'T LET THE FOG CLOSE OFF YOUR MIND.
REMEMBER, YOU ARE NOT ALONE...

BECAUSE...
...THE FLOWER GIVES YOU THE POWER OF HOPE.
IT DOESN'T EXIST TO PUT PEOPLE IN DESPAIR.

I AM GOING TO...
...MAKE YOUR WISH COME TRUE...
DON'T WORRY.

THE FOG IS CLEARING UP.
LOOK.
NOT TO WORRY.


HOW WONDERFUL THAT EVERYONE RETURNED SAFELY!
IN ANY CASE..
WELL...

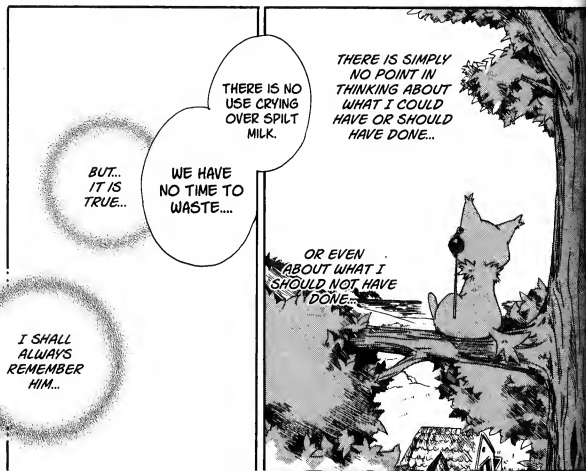
I CAN SEE THAT.... LOOK, KIARA'S CLOTHES ARE EVEN WORSE THAN BEFORE.

WE DID HAVE A ROUGH TIME THOUGH...
WE ARE ALL EXHAUSTED!

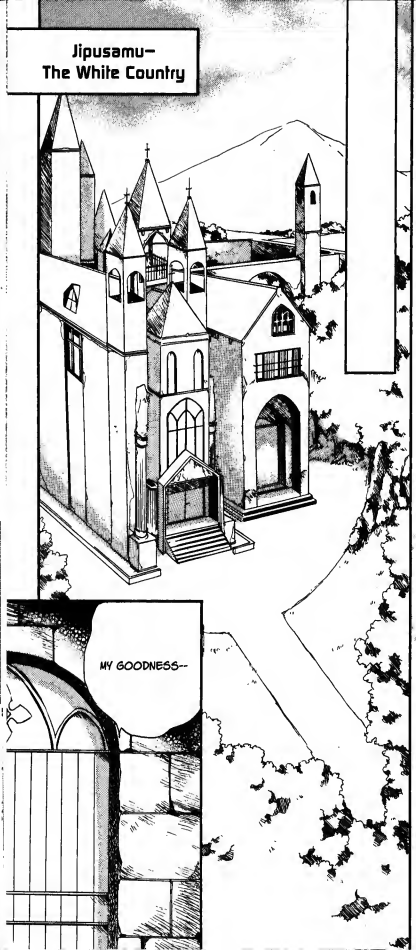
BUT THE MASTER OF POL-PORA UNDERSTOOD.
...I AM SO RELIEVED.
KIARA SAVED MY LIFE.
OH YEAH?

DO NOT WORRY ABOUT THE MONEY.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!
HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
...I KNOW. I AM FINE.

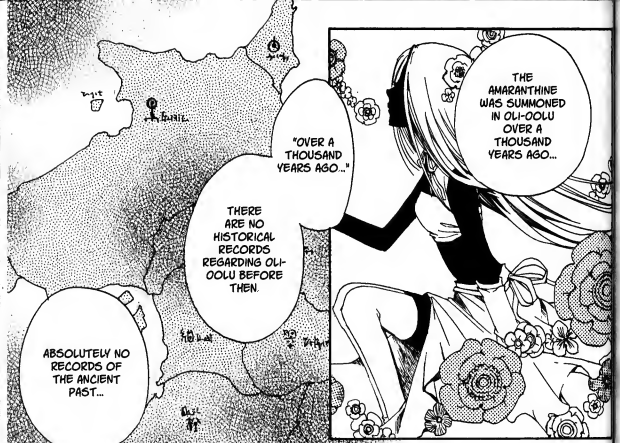
SEE, I KNOW SOMEONE IN THE NEXT TOWN... SOMEONE I CAN ASK TO PAY THE BILL.
...AH...
.....
FOR REAL? IS THAT GOING TO BE ON YOU?
ALL RIGHT. HOW ABOUT A LUXURIOUS DINNER IN THE NEXT TOWN?
YOU DID A GREAT JOB INDEED.


BUT... IT IS TRUE...
I SHALL ALWAYS REMEMBER HIM...
WE HAVE NO TIME TO WASTE....
THERE IS NO USE CRYING OVER SPILT MILK.
THERE IS SIMPLY NO POINT IN THINKING ABOUT WHAT I COULD HAVE OR SHOULD HAVE DONE...
OR EVEN ABOUT WHAT I SHOULD NOT HAVE DONE...

HUH?
ARE YOU OKAY?
BELBEL...
COME ON.
LET US GO.


Jipusamu–
The White Country
I WOULD LIKE HIM TO HEAR...
EVERYONE'S WISHES...
MY GOODNESS--

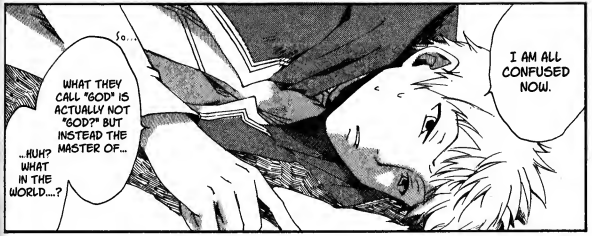
YES.
YOU ARE RIGHT ABOUT THAT.
LET'S GO!
RIGHT NOW I AM GOING TO WORRY ONLY ABOUT WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE AMARANTHINE.
WE HAVE TO FIND HER MASTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
I CAN'T WAIT TO FIND MY MASTER...
WHEN I FINALLY MEET HIM...
I HAVE SO MANY THINGS I WOULD LIKE TO TELL HIM...
MASTER...


"OVER A THOUSAND YEARS AGO..."
THERE ARE NO HISTORICAL RECORDS REGARDING OLI-OOLU BEFORE THEN.
ABSOLUTELY NO RECORDS OF THE ANCIENT PAST...

THE AMARANTHINE WAS SUMMONED IN OLI-OOLU OVER A THOUSAND YEARS AGO...

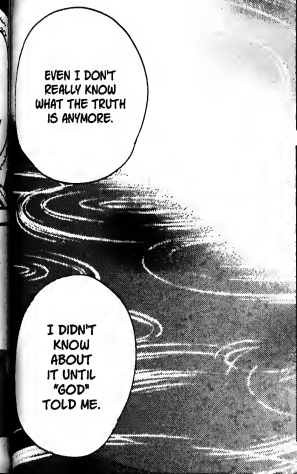
IN THE GREAT ANCIENT TEXT, THE PAGES ALLOCATED FOR THAT PREHISTORIC AGE ARE SIMPLY LEFT BLANK.

NO ONE HAS TAKEN NOTICE OF THAT FACT OR QUESTIONED IT. UNTIL NOW...
BUT NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...
BEFORE A THOUSAND YEARS AGO...?
HMMM, I GUESS ONLY "GOD" KNOWS WHAT HAPPENED WAY BACK THEN.


I AM ALL CONFUSED NOW.
SO...
WHAT THEY CALL "GOD" IS ACTUALLY NOT "GOD?" BUT INSTEAD THE MASTER OF...
..HUH? WHAT IN THE WORLD...?

SORRY, I DIDN'T MEAN TO CONFUSE YOU...
NO, I APOLOGIZE FOR NOT HAVING VERY GOOD COMPREHENSION SKILLS.

RELAX, I DON'T BLAME YOU...
IT MUST BE HARD FOR ANYONE TO ACCEPT IT WHEN ONE'S LONG-HELD BELIEF TURNS OUT TO BE FALSE.


EVEN I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT THE TRUTH IS ANYMORE.
I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT IT UNTIL "GOD" TOLD ME.

HUH...?
!!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHAT IN THE...!?

LOOK, IF YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE SOMEONE AT ALL, BELIEVE ME.

I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT TO BELIEVE ANYMORE.
SIGH...

I AM JUST CHECKING OUT HOW STRONG THIS WALL IS....
OH...

HUH?
BY THE WAY, SEREN... WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

NO, I AM GOING TO USE NOTHING BUT MY OWN FIST!
I AM ONLY A PRIEST, AFTER ALL...
DID I SAY I WAS GOING TO UNDO THE SPELL?
WHAT?
THAT WALL IS SPELLBOUND, RIGHT?

CAPTURE THEM!
EEEK!
DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN ESCAPE FROM HERE?
CRAP!
WHAT DO YOU TWO THINK YOU'RE DOING?
H-H-HEY... WAIT A MINUTE!
URGH?!
...RUNNING AWAY.
I AM NOT.

OH DEAR GOD!
THIS IS MIGHTY HIGH!!
WHOA.
...OH?

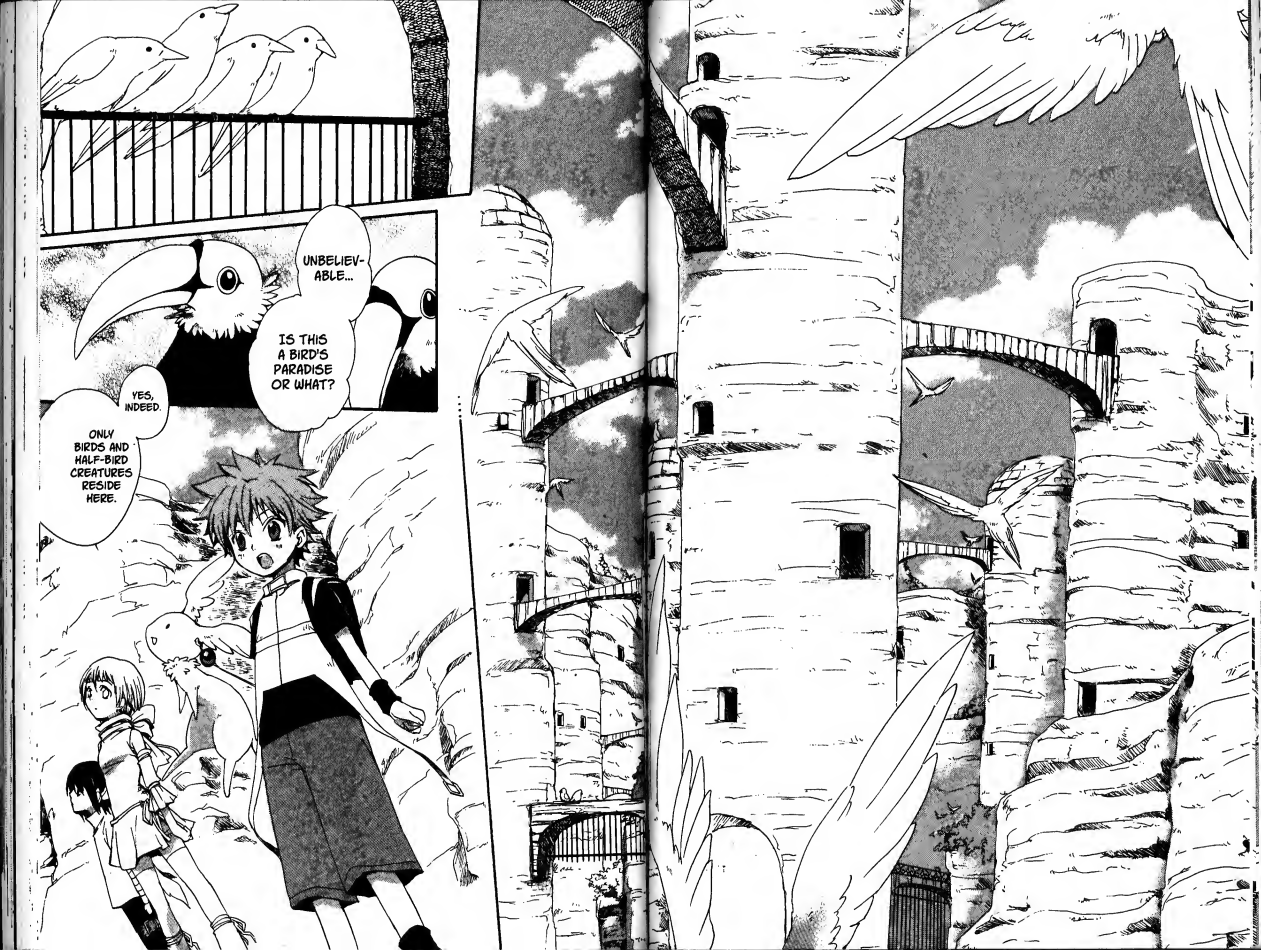
Episode 23
Happy Item

Y--!
YOU SON OF--
A--
He is falling down...
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH HIM?
HE IS GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT...
LET HIM BE. HE IS USELESS.
I DO HOPE EVERYTHING WILL WORK OUT JUST FINE.
I AM COUNTING ON YOU....
...SHEN'NA.

--RA...
AH...
KIARA...
MASTER..!
HEY?
ゴッ
ARE YOU SURE THIS IS THE RIGHT WAY?
I AM QUITE SURE.
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THERE IS A TOWN AROUND HERE.
YES, BUT THERE IS.
TELL US ABOUT YOUR FRIEND IN THE NEXT TOWN.
MASTER, ARE YOU DOING OKAY?
YES... I AM FINE, I GUESS.
I DO WISH I COULD COME TO MEET YOU, BUT I AM STUCK HERE.
LET ME SEE...
SHE LOOKS LIKE SHE IS HALF-HUMAN, HALF-BIRD.
ARE YOU CAPTURED? WHERE ARE YOU?
HALF-HUMAN, HALF-BIRD?

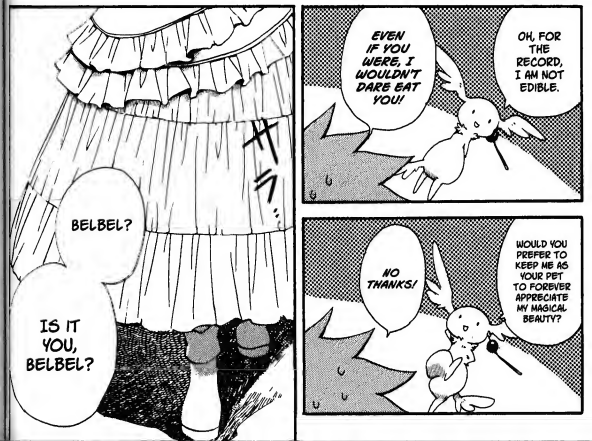
WOW...!
LOOK!
WE ARE FINALLY HERE.
!
THAT WILL NOT BE SO HARD...
WE CAN ASK THE BIRD PEOPLE.
BIRD?
HE IS IN JIPUSAMU, AND UNABLE TO MOVE...
HE DID SAY SOMETHING ABOUT HOW WE NEED TO "FIND THE BIRD..."
IT WAS ONLY FOR A SHORT WHILE.
WHAT? YOU HEARD YOUR MASTER'S VOICE?
YES.

BIRD?
NO. NOT A GOOD IDEA...
WHAT DO YOU GUYS WANT TO EAT?
WE ARE GOING TO EAT SOMETHING THE MOMENT WE ARRIVE.
OOOH, I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE HER!
...THE BIRD...
LOOK FOR...
...MASTER?
...IN JIPUSAMU...
RIGHT NOW I AM...
A BIRD HUMAN PROBABLY LOOKS LIKE...
A MERMAID LOOKS LIKE THIS....
A BIRD HUMAN...?


UNBELIEV-
ABLE...
IS THIS A BIRD'S PARADISE OR WHAT?
YES, INDEED.
ONLY BIRDS AND HALF-BIRD CREATURES RESIDE HERE.

LONG TIME NO SEE, MAATORU!
WE WERE JUST ON OUR WAY TO YOUR HOUSE!
OH... YOU'VE BROUGHT COMPANY?
I'VE FOUND MARVELOUS STUFF AT THE MARKET TODAY.
HOW NICE!
PLEASE, YOU MUST ALL COME TO MY PLACE.
SO THE BIRD-PEOPLE ARE ACTUALLY ANGELS?
WOW...
SUCH A BEAUTIFUL VOICE!

FOR FOOD OR FOR PETS.
IT IS NOT AT ALL EASY TO BE A BEAST, YOU KNOW.
CAPTURED...? YOU MEAN THERE ARE THOSE WHO CAPTURE BIRD PEOPLE?
IT IS SAD BUT TRUE.
THEY LIVE HERE QUIETLY AND PEACEFULLY... AWAY FROM THE DANGER OF BEING HUNTED OR CAPTURED.

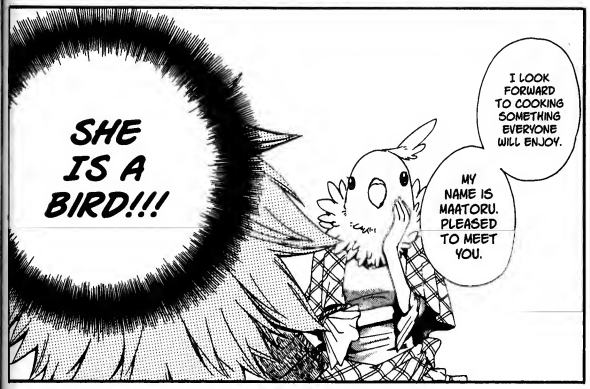

BELBEL?
IS IT YOU, BELBEL?
EVEN IF YOU WERE, I WOULDN'T DARE EAT YOU!
OH, FOR THE RECORD, I AM NOT EDIBLE.
NO THANKS!
WOULD YOU PREFER TO KEEP ME AS YOUR PET TO FOREVER APPRECIATE MY MAGICAL BEAUTY?

EAT AS MUCH AS YOUR HEART DESIRES!
HERE YOU GO!

OH MY...
TH-THE-THESE ARE...
...THE LEGENDARY FRUIT, "LABYUUN!!"

TRUE, TRUE! YOU CAN ONLY FIND LABYUUNS IN THIS ONE SPECIAL AREA... IN FACT, THEY SAY LABYUUNS ARE ONE OF THE THREE MOST AMAZING FRUITS IN ALL OF OLI-OOLU.
FOR REAL?
THEY ARE QUITE EXPENSIVE TOO.

LABYUUN...
HUH? WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT THEM?
WHY, THESE ARE EXTREMELY RARE...


SHE IS A BIRD!!!
I LOOK FORWARD TO COOKING SOMETHING EVERYONE WILL ENJOY.
MY NAME IS MAATORU. PLEASED TO MEET YOU.

CAREFUL, WATCH YOUR STEP!

DO YOU THINK SHE IS EDIBLE?
EVEN IF SHE WAS, I SURE WOULDN'T DARE TO EAT HER...
I wouldn't feel like eating her at all...

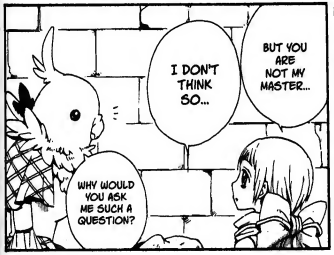
JIPUSAMU... BIRD...
LET'S SEE...
ONE OF THE YUYOKUJIN'S WHO LEFT THIS CITY BECAME A PRIEST IN JIPUSAMU...
WHAT DID YOU SAY?

I HAVE A FUNNY FEELING THAT...
...THIS PERSON JUST MIGHT BE KIARA'S MASTER!!
MASTER DID MENTION THE WORD "BIRD!"
YES!

W-WHAT IS THE "YU-YOKU-JIN?"
HUH? LIKE AN ANGEL?
WHAT IS AN ANGEL?
A HUMAN WHO HAS WINGS ON THE BACK.

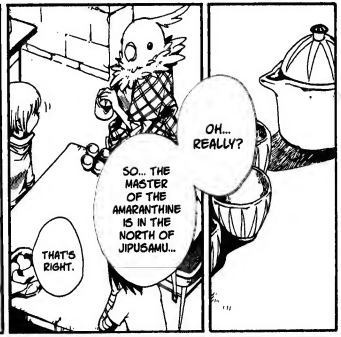
BY THE WAY... IS SHE AN AMARANTHINE?
IF SO, SHE IS EVEN RARER THAN LABYUUNS!

IT IS A RARE FRUIT AND THEREFORE QUITE PRICEY, BUT THAT ALONE DOES NOT GUARANTEE THAT IT WILL TASTE VERY GOOD...
STILL IT'S CONSIDERED ONE OF THE MOST AMAZING FRUITS IN OUR WORLD...
USH! THIS TASTES NASTY!!!


BUT YOU ARE NOT MY MASTER...
I DON'T THINK SO...
WHY WOULD YOU ASK ME SUCH A QUESTION?

THE BIRD...
YES, I AM A BIRD.

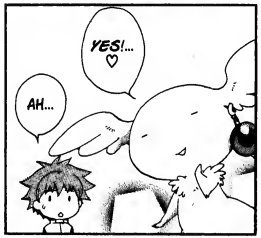
THE ONLY CLUE I HAVE IS..."THE BIRD..."
MAATORU... DOES THAT RING A BELL?

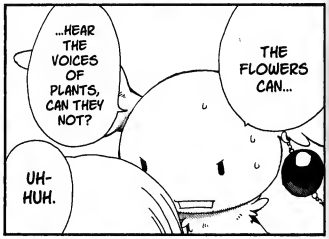

OH... REALLY?
SO... THE MASTER OF THE AMARANTHINE IS IN THE NORTH OF JIPUSAMU...
THAT'S RIGHT.

WE CALL THIS A FOUR-LEAF CLOVER.
USUALLY A CLOVER HAS THREE LEAVES JUST LIKE THE LABYUUN.
IT'S RARE TO FIND FOUR-LEAF CLOVERS.
AND...EACH OF THE FOUR LEAVES REPRESENTS SOMETHING....
WELL... I CAN'T REMEMBER... EXACTLY...
IN ANY CASE... IT'S SUPPOSED TO BRING YOU GOOD LUCK!
IT'S JUST LIKE THE LABYUUN!!
WHOA!
OH, REALLY?

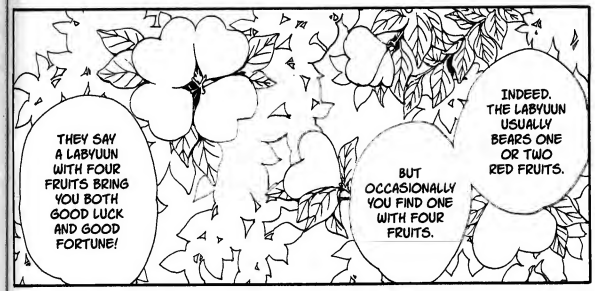
BUT THESE ARE VERY EXPENSIVE!! DO YOU UNDERSTAND? THEY ARE VERY, VERY VALUABLE!
BUT FUTABA SAYS IT TASTES AWFUL...IT MEANS THIS FRUIT IS NOT SO PRECIOUS AFTER ALL.
HEY, VIRID!
STOP! YOU ARE NOT TO PLAY WITH THAT PRECIOUS FRUIT!
MMMM... I AM NOT SO SURE ABOUT THAT...
HUH?
NYA
THAT'S RIGHT... THERE ARE NO CLOVERS IN OLI-OOLU, HUH?
HOLD ON A SEC...
IT LOOKS LIKE A FOUR-LEAF CLOVER.
CLOVER?
HOW ABOUT THAT!
LOOK AT THIS!
HERE!

I WOULD LIKE TO TALK WITH IT...
WAIT ONE SECOND...


YES!... ♡
AH...

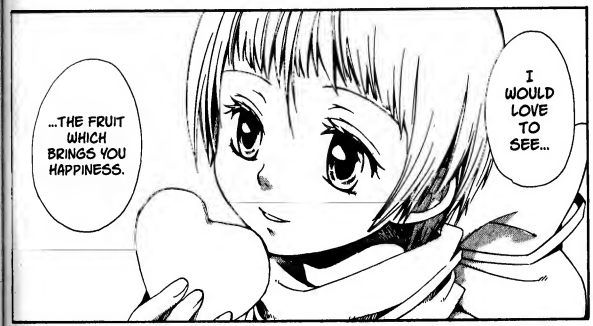

...HEAR THE VOICES OF PLANTS, CAN THEY NOT?
THE FLOWERS CAN...
UH-HUH.

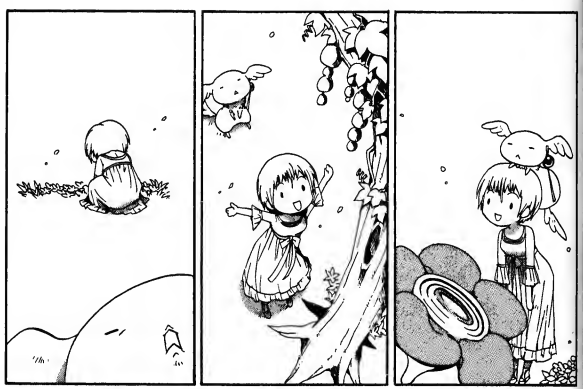
JUST AS I THOUGHT...
MEANWHILE, YOU GET TO CHAT WITH AS MANY FRUITS AS YOU WISH... TALK ABOUT KILLING TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE.
I AM GOING TO FIND OUT WHERE THEY ARE AND MAKE LOTS OF MONEY...
IF YOU CALL THE LABYUUNS, THEY WILL RESPOND...
THIS WILL MAKE THINGS MUCH EASIER...


THEY SAY A LABYUUN WITH FOUR FRUITS BRING YOU BOTH GOOD LUCK AND GOOD FORTUNE!
BUT OCCASIONALLY YOU FIND ONE WITH FOUR FRUITS.
INDEED. THE LABYUUN USUALLY BEARS ONE OR TWO RED FRUITS.

WHAT?
...WOW... WOULD I EVER LOVE TO...

YES. BY THE WAY, ANY WITH THREE FRUITS IS CONSIDERED QUITE ILL-OMENED.
A LABYUUN THAT BRINGS HAPPINESS... HUH?
REALLY?


...THE FRUIT WHICH BRINGS YOU HAPPINESS.
I WOULD LOVE TO SEE...



ARE YOU REALLY SERIOUS ABOUT FINDING LABYUUNS?
LISTEN!!
I GOT THESE!
MUN-MUNS! ♡

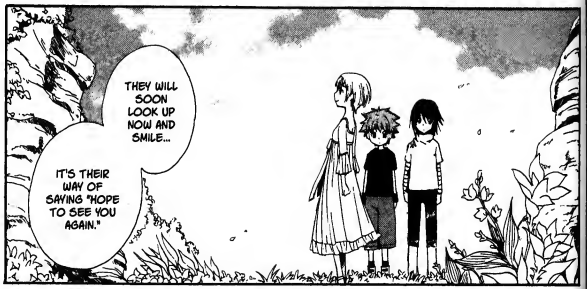
HEY... THIS TASTES BETTER THAN A LABYUUN.
I LIKE THIS A WHOLE LOT BETTER...

I AM GOING TO MAKE MY FORTUNE OUT OF LABYUUNS!
うおお
THESE ARE FOR YOU.
I THINK YOU CAN EAT THEM.

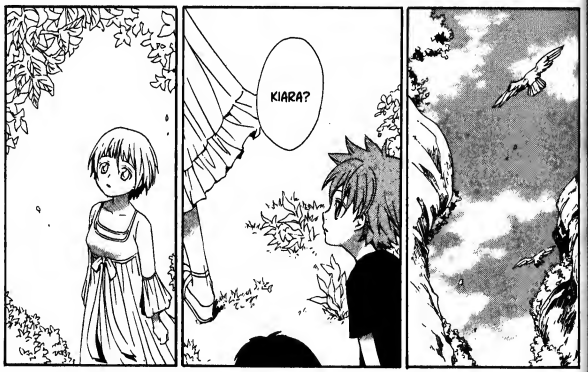
TELL ME, KIARA! FROM WHICH DIRECTION DO YOU HEAR THEIR SWEET VOICES?
BELBEL... HE IS COMPLETELY BLINDED BY GREED NOW...
THAT WAY!
LABYUUN!
THE LUCKY LABYUUN!
COME ON, LET'S GO FIND LABYUUNS!

...BUT IT'S ALL RIGHT...
IT'S PRETTY RARE FOR KIARA TO HAVE A WISH...

"THE FLOWER IS THE ONE WHO GRANTS WISHES TO OTHERS"...WE ARE NOT ON THE RECEIVING END.
IT'S OKAY FOR HER TO GET SIDE-TRACKED A LITTLE BIT BEFORE MEETING HER MASTER...
THIS IS THE ONLY TIME KIARA CAN TRULY ENJOY HER FREEDOM....


THEY WILL SOON LOOK UP NOW AND SMILE...
IT'S THEIR WAY OF SAYING "HOPE TO SEE YOU AGAIN."

AH!
...COOL!


KIARA?

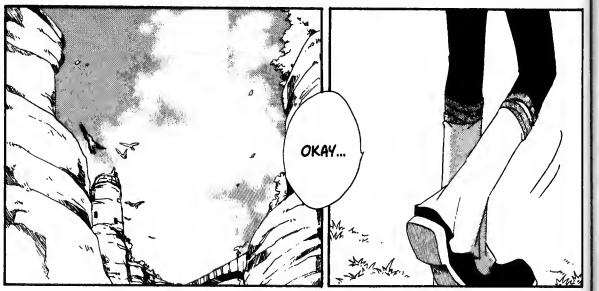
I...
...I WOULD LIKE TO SAY "THANK YOU" TO THEM, TOO!
WELL...
THEY'RE SAYING...
"THANK YOU."

ピリリ
HEY... I WONDER IF THEY HOLD GRUDGES AGAINST US...?
I MEAN... THEY MUST GET STEPPED ON BY PEOPLE ALL THE TIME...

NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES THEY'RE TROD UPON...
...ALTHOUGH IT CAN BE PAINFUL AT TIMES...
DON'T WORRY.
...THEY ARE FINE.

IT SURE LOOKS LIKE A FOUR-LEAVED CLOVER!
FANTASTIC...!
ONLY IT SAYS IT'S NOT CAPABLE OF GRANTING PEOPLE'S WISHES...
BUT IT SURE IS BEAUTIFUL.
...WOW!
I'VE FOUND IT...!

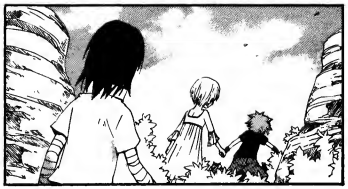
VIRID!
COME! LET'S GET BACK TO MAATORU'S HOUSE!


OKAY...

UH-OH, THIS IS NOT GOOD... LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.

I DON'T THINK BELBEL NEEDS TO KNOW WE'VE FOUND THE LABYUUN.
C'MON! LET'S GO!

HEY--!
HUH?
WHERE ARE YOU GUYS?



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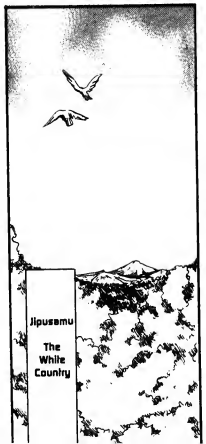
THOSE ARE KIARA'S CLOTHES, RIGHT?
EXCUSE ME...
MAITORU?
YES, FUTABA.
WELL... I GUESS THIS IS DONE.
OH!
HERE...
I AM SURE KIARA WILL JUST LOVE IT.
WHAT A WONDERFUL IDEA! ♡

BUT THAT'S OKAY.
REMEMBER, YOU ARE WITH THE AMARANTHINE.
THE FLOWER WHICH BRINGS YOU HAPPINESS....
SO YOU COULDN'T FIND IT AFTER ALL.
THAT'S TOO BAD.
URGH... IT WAS A COMPLETE WASTE OF TIME.
...YES...
I SURE HOPE THAT WILL TURN OUT TO BE TRUE...

NOW...
WE MUST ALL LOOK FOR "THE BIRD."
YES.

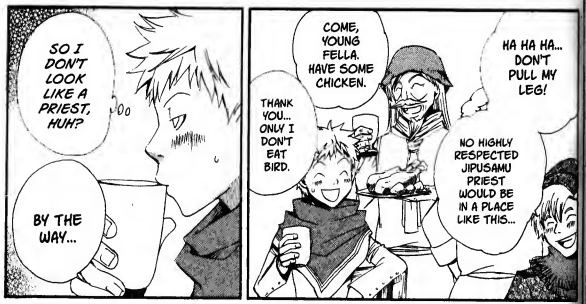

Jipusamu
The White Country

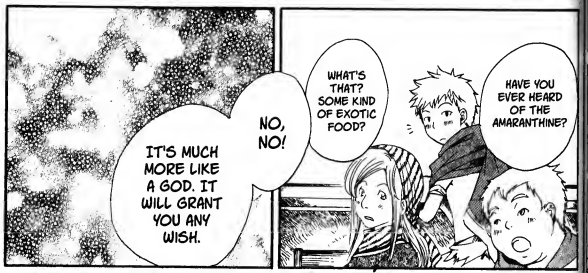
I HOPE THIS BIRD-PERSON IS YOUR MASTER.
ME TOO.

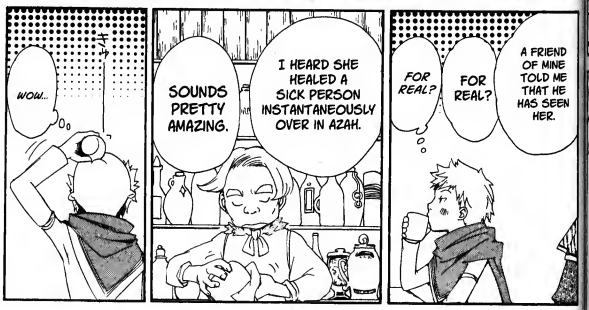
THANK YOU SO MUCH, MAATORU!

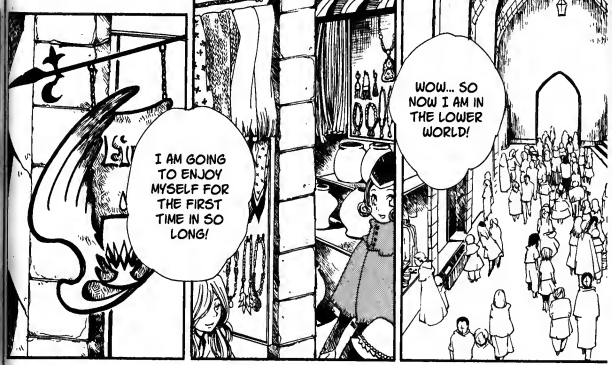
Episode 24
The Wing's Whereabouts

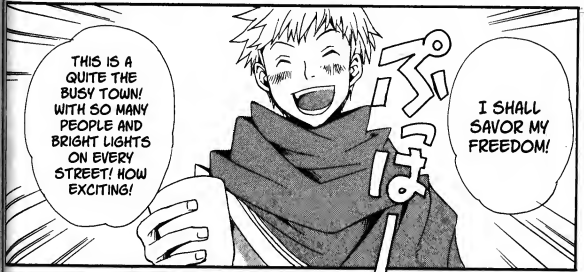
I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO DIE...
THANK GOODNESS I HAVE WINGS...
CRAP...
...URGH!
THAT WAS TOO CLOSE....
I WILL NOT SOON FORGET WHAT SEREN DID TO ME...
BUT I AM GOING TO MAKE HIM PAY FOR THIS SOME DAY..


SO I DON'T LOOK LIKE A PRIEST, HUH?
BY THE WAY...
COME, YOUNG FELLA. HAVE SOME CHICKEN.
THANK YOU... ONLY I DON'T EAT BIRD.
HA HA HA... DON'T PULL MY LEG!
NO HIGHLY RESPECTED JIPUSAMU PRIEST WOULD BE IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...


IT'S MUCH MORE LIKE A GOD. IT WILL GRANT YOU ANY WISH.
NO, NO!
WHAT'S THAT? SOME KIND OF EXOTIC FOOD?
HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF THE AMARANTHINE?


WOW...
SOUNDS PRETTY AMAZING.
I HEARD SHE HEALED A SICK PERSON INSTANTANEOUSLY OVER IN AZAH.
FOR REAL?
FOR REAL?
A FRIEND OF MINE TOLD ME THAT HE HAS SEEN HER.


I AM GOING TO ENJOY MYSELF FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SO LONG!
WOW... SO NOW I AM IN THE LOWER WORLD!


THIS IS A QUITE THE BUSY TOWN! WITH SO MANY PEOPLE AND BRIGHT LIGHTS ON EVERY STREET! HOW EXCITING!
I SHALL SAVOR MY FREEDOM!
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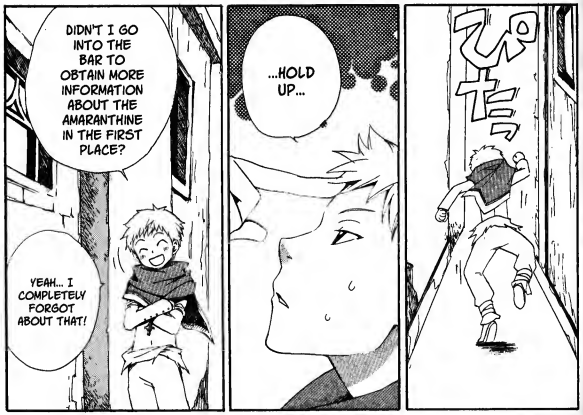
PRIEST...
...FROM JIPUSAMU!

ME? I AM A...
HEY, YOUNGSTER.
WHERE ARE YOU FROM?


DIDN'T I GO INTO THE BAR TO OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE AMARANTHINE IN THE FIRST PLACE?
YEAH... I COMPLETELY FORGOT ABOUT THAT!
...HOLD UP...
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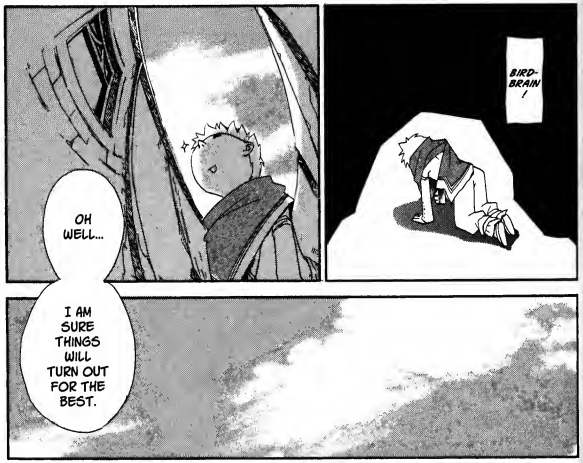
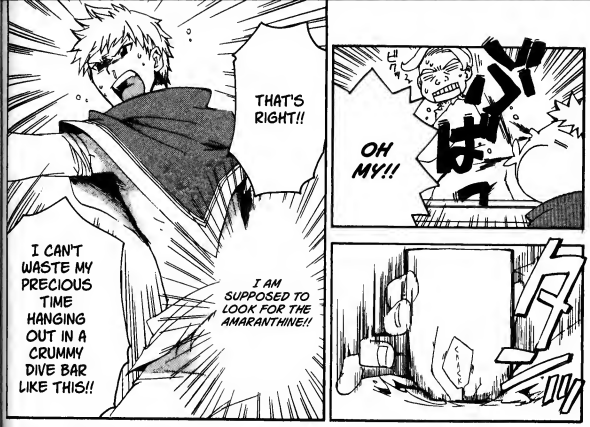

OH WELL...
I AM SURE THINGS WILL TURN OUT FOR THE BEST.
BIRD-BRAIN!


THAT'S RIGHT!!
I AM SUPPOSED TO LOOK FOR THE AMARANTHINE!!
I CAN'T WASTE MY PRECIOUS TIME HANGING OUT IN A CRUMMY DIVE BAR LIKE THIS!!
OH MY!!
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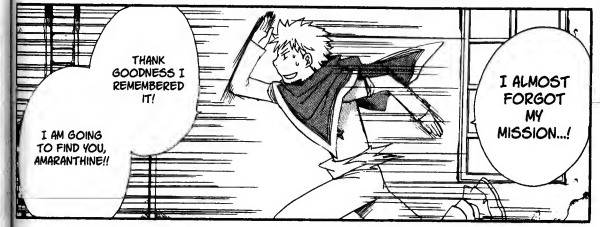
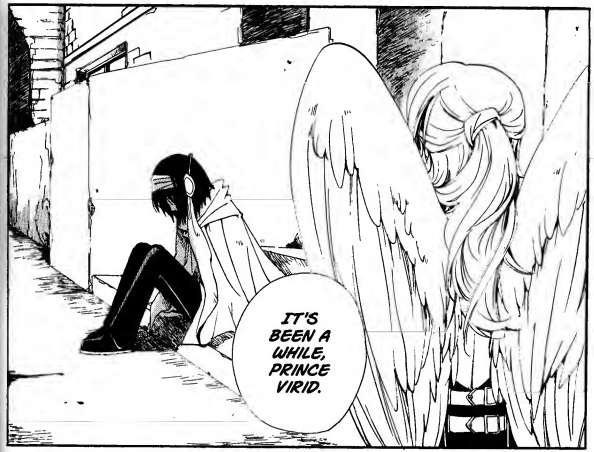
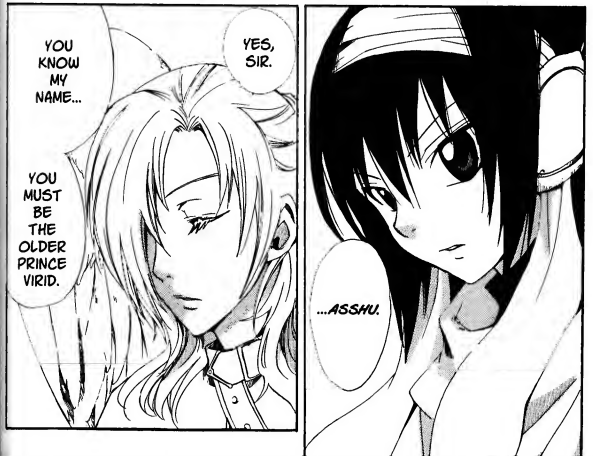

I ALMOST FORGOT MY MISSION...!
THANK GOODNESS I REMEMBERED IT!
I AM GOING TO FIND YOU, AMARANTHINE!!

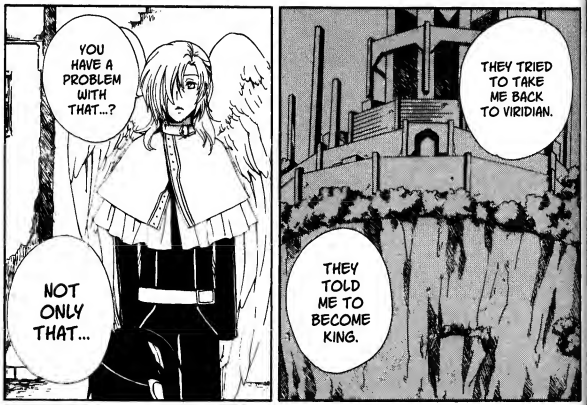
YOU SURE DO HAVE AN AWFULLY POOR MEMORY, SHEMNA. INDEED, YOU ARE A BIRD-BRAIN.
GREAT! NOW I'M EVEN STARTING TO REMEMBER THINGS I DON'T NEED TO RECALL AT THIS POINT... CRAP!
I AM NOT GOING TO LET HIM CALL ME A BIRD-BRAIN EVER AGAIN.
WHEN THEY WERE PRIESTS IN TRAINING...

AH...
HE KILLED ALL THESE WELL-TRAINED ONES... SUCH A WASTE...
OH NO...
THIS IS A SHAME....


IT'S BEEN A WHILE, PRINCE VIRID.


YES, SIR.
YOU KNOW MY NAME...
YOU MUST BE THE OLDER PRINCE VIRID.
...ASSHU.

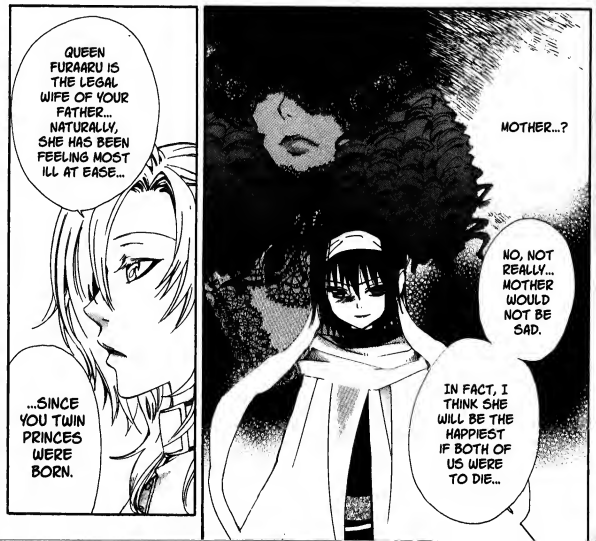
SINCE THEY WERE KILLED SO BRUTALLY, I ASSUMED IT WAS YOUR BROTHER WHO DID THIS...
IT'S MOST UNUSUAL OF YOU--YOU WHO ARE ALWAYS SO KIND AND COMPASSIONATE... PRINCE VIRID.
DID THEY DO SOMETHING DISRESPECTFUL TO YOU?
THEY TRIED TO STAND IN MY WAY.

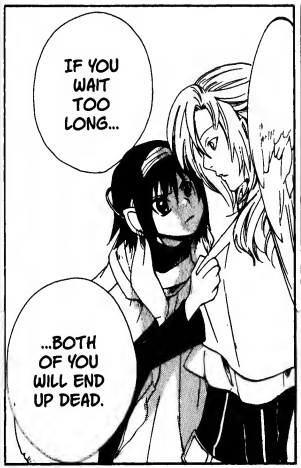

YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THAT...?
NOT ONLY THAT...
THEY TRIED TO TAKE ME BACK TO VIRIDIAN.
THEY TOLD ME TO BECOME KING.

NO MATTER WHAT, ONE OF THE TWO PRINCES HAS TO DIE... THAT'S THE TIME-HONORED LAW.
WE MUST SETTLE THIS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE....
EITHER YOU OR YOUR BROTHER...

THEY ALSO INSISTED THAT...
"...THE OTHER VIRID MUST BE TERMINATED."
THAT WOULD SPARE YOU A LOT OF TROUBLE.
THAT WAY, YOU CAN EASILY SUCCEED TO THE CROWN.
WHAT?
BUT THAT'S FINE.

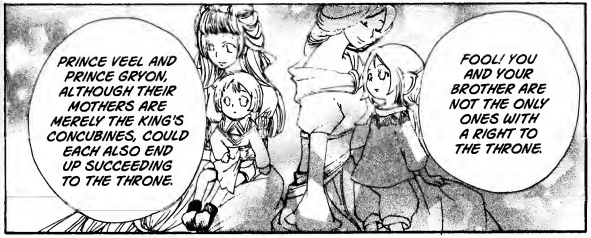
QUEEN FURAARU MIGHT BE SAD.
WAIT, THERE IS ONE.
MEANING THAT EVEN IF YOU AND YOUR BROTHER BOTH DIE, NOBODY WILL THINK IT'S THAT BIG A DEAL.


QUEEN FURAARU IS THE LEGAL WIFE OF YOUR FATHER... NATURALLY, SHE HAS BEEN FEELING MOST ILL AT EASE...
...SINCE YOU TWIN PRINCES WERE BORN.
MOTHER...?
NO, NOT REALLY... MOTHER WOULD NOT BE SAD.
IN FACT, I THINK SHE WILL BE THE HAPPIEST IF BOTH OF US WERE TO DIE...


IF YOU WAIT TOO LONG...
...BOTH OF YOU WILL END UP DEAD.

NO! I AM GOING TO DECIDE WHAT TO DO WITH MY OWN LIFE!
DON'T YOU DARE TOUCH MY BOTHER!!
I AM TELLING YOU...
...WE HAVE TO FINISH THIS AS SOON AS WE CAN.

...HOW?


PRINCE VEEL AND PRINCE GRYON, ALTHOUGH THEIR MOTHERS ARE MERELY THE KING'S CONCUBINES, COULD EACH ALSO END UP SUCCEEDING TO THE THRONE.
FOOL! YOU AND YOUR BROTHER ARE NOT THE ONLY ONES WITH A RIGHT TO THE THRONE.

YES, INDEED.
IT IS PERHAPS UNFORTUNATE THAT YOU WERE BORN TO THE ROYAL FAMILY OF SUCH A SELFISH KINGDOM.
EVEN SO...

...I HAVE ALWAYS SERVED YOU, PRINCE VIRID...
...AND I WOULD LIKE TO SEE YOU BECOME KING.
YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?

EVERYONE IS SO...
...SELFISH!

YOU AND YOUR BROTHER ARE FIRST IN LINE TO THE THRONE... IF BOTH OF YOU DIE, YOUR MOTHER WILL DEFINITELY LOSE FACE.
VIRID...
VIRID...
...MY MOTHER...
...WOULDN'T CARE...
SHE CAN'T EVEN DISTINGUISH BETWEEN ME AND MY BROTHER...
COME HERE, VIRID.

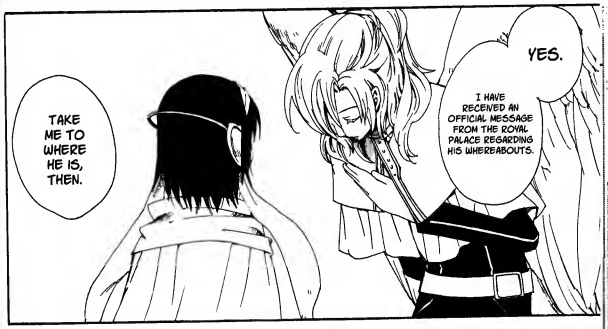
...SOMETIMES, THOUGH...
LET ME HUG MY BABY BOY.
...SHE DOES GIVE ME AN ALMOST GENTLE SMILE...

EVEN IDENTICAL TWINS ARE STILL UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS.
IF ONE WATCHES THEIR BEHAVIORS AND THEIR SPEECH MANNERISMS CAREFULLY ENOUGH, IT'S NOT HARD TO NOTICE SUBTLE DIFFERENCES.
SEE, I AM A HALF BEAST, SO I CAN PRETTY MUCH TELL BY THE SMELL...
ESPECIALLY IF ONE HAS A WILLINGNESS TO DO SO...
...THAT IS.
...I SEE.

CAN YOU DISTINGUISH BETWEEN MY BROTHER AND MYSELF?
YES?
ASSHU.
YE-YE... YES.
IT'S ACTUALLY FAIRLY EASY FOR ME.

I AM NOT GOING TO DIE.
I AM GOING TO SETTLE THIS ISSUE NOW AND FOREVER.
I WON'T LET THEM KILL ME.
MY BROTHER AND I ARE SOON GOING TO BECOME ONE.

I HAVE NO INTENTION OF DYING OR DISAPPEARING.



WOW! THAT'S GREAT!
IS IT?
SURE! IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY.
WE SHOULD CELEBRATE!

OKAY...
I MEAN, IF FUTABA SAYS SO, I THINK IT'S GREAT.

I WONDER WHY A BIRTHDAY IS SUCH A BIG DEAL.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
?

TODAY IS THE FOURTH OF HEEZAA, THE MONTH OF IVY.
YEAH?
I DON'T QUITE UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU ARE SAYING... BUT OH WELL.

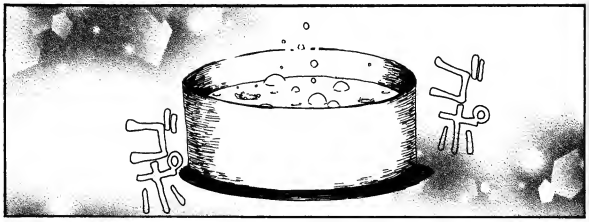
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
ON THE SEVENTH OF HEEZAA...

I WILL BE TURNING THIRTEEN.

HEEZAA FOURTH...
ONLY THREE MORE DAYS...

OH NO! I HAVE TO PAY FOR ALL THAT?
BELBEL....
.....
HUH? WHAT ARE YOU MAKING?
WE NEED A BIRTHDAY CAKE TO CELEBRATE YOUR SPECIAL DAY!
IT'S A KIND OF DESSERT... SOFT AND SWEET....
AND YOU PUT THE SAME NUMBER OF CANDLES AS YOUR NEW AGE RIGHT ON TOP. IT'S CALLED A BIRTHDAY CAKE!

I AM GOING TO MAKE SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR VIRID'S BIRTHDAY !
AND WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE?
NEVER ASK ME THAT!
HOW OLD ARE YOU, BELBEL?
.....
I HAVE AN IDEA!
HEY, GREAT! THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I NEED!
NOW THAT WE ARE IN THE MARKET...
ET CETERA...
THAT LOOKS LIKE FLOUR...
THIS MUST BE SUGAR.
THESE LOOK LIKE EGGS.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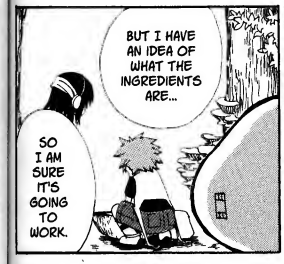
ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN SIMPLY BLAME THIS MESS ON THE INGREDIENTS?
GEE... I AM AFRAID THAT THE INGREDIENTS AVAILABLE IN THIS WORLD MAY NOT BE SUITABLE FOR BAKING A CAKE...

I DISAGREE...
SO THIS IS CAKE... IMPRESSIVE!
ポポ

...HUH?
JUST WAIT ONE MOMENT, OKAY, I NEED TO DIVIDE THIS INTO FOUR AND...

FEAR-LESS DARE-DEVILS...
WOW! LOVE IS POWERFUL!
DON'T WORRY! IT'S THE THOUGHT AND THE LOVE THAT COUNTS!


SO I AM SURE IT'S GOING TO WORK.
BUT I HAVE AN IDEA OF WHAT THE INGREDIENTS ARE...

NOPE.
CAKE...YEAH... I HAVE HEARD OF IT BEFORE.
HAVE YOU MADE ONE BEFORE?

OH WELL... I WON'T WORRY ABOUT THE EGGS, THEN.
HMMM, NOW I DON'T REMEMBER WHAT I NEED TO DO WITH THE EGGS...

OOPS! I FORGOT TO ADD SUGAR!
BUT I GUESS ALL I NEED IS SOME HEAT...
WE HAVE NO OVEN...

I AM TRYING TO REMEMBER WHAT BROTHER TASUKE USED TO DO...
FIRST I NEED TO STRAIN FLOUR...
FORGET IT... I DON'T HAVE A FLOUR STRAINER.
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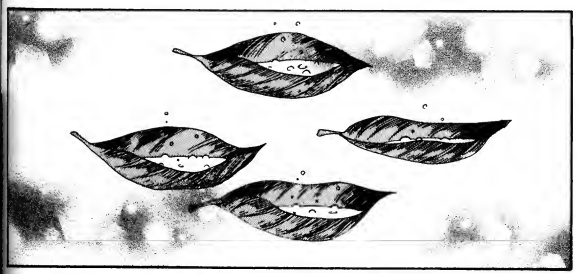
Episode 25
You on the Other Side



HUH? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WHY DO YOU REFUSE TO ADMIT YOU SCREWED UP?
I KNOW.
CAKE IS A VERY INTERESTING DESSERT!

EWWW, I NEED SOME WATER...

...BROTHERHOOD SHOULD BE SOMETHING GOOD IN ESSENCE...
ONLY AFTER I MET FUTABA, DID I COME TO REALIZE THAT....
STRANGE, I HAVE NEVER EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT THAT...
WHAT IS MY BROTHER TO ME, REALLY?
...WHETHER I LIKE MY FAMILY OR NOT.
THIS IS NOT ABOUT...
FAMILY... BROTHERHOOD...

...IN THE TRUE SENSE....

MAYBE WE HAVEN'T BEEN BROTHERS...

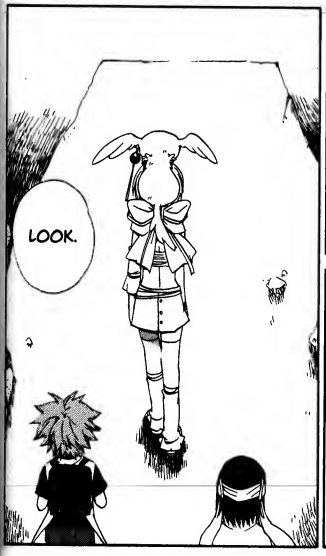
...NOW THAT...
...I THINK MORE ABOUT MY OWN SITUATION...

WHILE I WAS SPENDING MY TIME BEHIND THE BARS...
...I KEPT THINKING, WONDERING... WHAT WAS ON THE MIND OF THE OTHER VIRID.. WHAT WAS HIS LIFE LIKE...?
...I REALIZE HOW LITTLE I KNEW ABOUT..
...MY TWIN BROTHER VIRID.
NEXT TO NOTHING, REALLY...

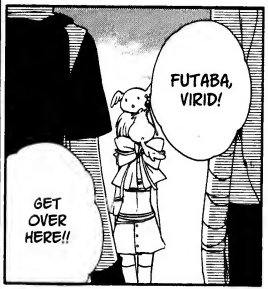
THIS IS GRAPHITE! BLACK COUNTRY.

YES.
I'M FINE.

WHAT'S WRONG, VIRID?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?


LOOK.

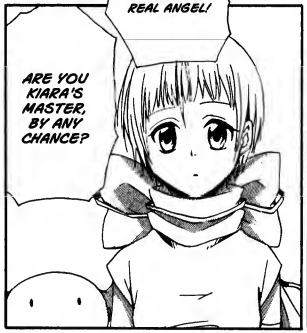
WELL... I HOPE YOU DON'T GET SICK AFTER EATING THAT, UM, CAKE I MADE...
DOES CAKE OFTEN MAKE ONE SICK?


FUTABA, VIRID!
GET OVER HERE!!

KIARA?
A BIRD...
A BIRD IS COMING THIS WAY...

IT LOOKS JUST LIKE A NORMAL TOWN TO ME!
HUH? THAT'S IT?
THIS COUNTRY IS KNOWN AS THE HOME TO WIZARDS AND WITCHES.. SOMEHOW, I EXPECTED THIS PLACE TO BE MUCH MORE SCARY.
WOW... WIZARDRY SOUNDS VERY USEFUL.
FOR EXAMPLE, THEY BOIL WATER BY CASTING A SPELL.
THE ONLY UNIQUE THING ABOUT THIS COUNTRY IS THAT HERE EVERYBODY USES WIZARDRY IN THEIR EVERYDAY LIFE.
AH...
YOU REALLY THINK SO?
YOU ARE FROM SUCH AN INTERESTING WORLD, FUTABA.
EVEN SO, I THINK WHAT THEY CALL THE "ELECTRIC POT" WOULD COME IN EVEN MORE HANDY...

AWESOME!


YOU SURE DO RESEMBLE A REAL ANGEL!
ARE YOU KIARA'S MASTER, BY ANY CHANCE?

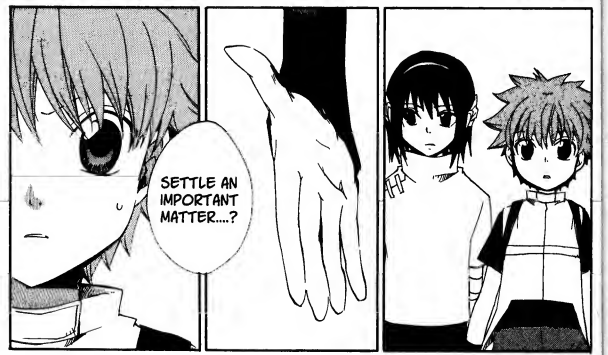
A...

A BIRD...?

HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT ME?
OH...?
YOU ARE THE YOUNGER PRINCE VIRID, ARE YOU NOT?
PLUS YOU ARE WEARING TRADITIONAL VIRIDIAN CLOTHES...
VIRID... MY BROTHER USED TO TELL ME STORIES ABOUT YOU.
SO I FIGURED YOU MUST BE THE ASSHU MY BROTHER TOLD ME ABOUT...
YOU'RE ONE OF HIS SERVANTS. YOU HAVE LIGHT BLUE WINGS ON YOUR BACK.

HUH?
...NO!
.....
...ASSHU?

...SO I SEE.
ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF...
MY NAME IS ASSHU.
I SERVE PRINCE VIRID IN VIRIDIAN.
I'M AFRAID HE MUST SETTLE AN IMPORTANT MATTER WITH HIS BROTHER.
TODAY...
...I COME HERE TO ENSNARE THE OTHER PRINCE VIRID.


SETTLE AN IMPORTANT MATTER....?

YOU SEEM TO HAVE MELLOWED OUT QUITE A BIT...
NO LONGER IS IT SO EASY TO TELL WHICH ONE IS THE "PRINCE OF MADNESS."

I SEE.
THIS MAKES IT MUCH HARDER FOR ME TO DISTINGUISH THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR TWIN.

.....
WHO ARE YOU?

I'M A FRIEND OF VIRID'S!!

HEY! WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?
AND WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH VIRID?

HE IS WAITING FOR YOU.
VIRID IS...
...WAITING FOR ME?
MY BROTHER IS...?
VIRID?
ARE YOU OKAY?
ARE YOU IN PAIN?

NO! NEVER!
HE WILL NOT FIGHT HIS OWN BROTHER!
TO GIVE UP ON EVERY-THING...?
TO EVEN ABANDON YOUR VERY OWN BROTHER?
ARE YOU TRYING TO RUN AWAY...

I WILL BE BACK VERY SOON.
SO GO WAIT FOR ME, FUTABA.
BUT...!
IT'S OKAY. I WILL BE FINE.

I WONDER HOW MY BROTHER IS FEELING RIGHT NOW.
ARE YOU IN PAIN?
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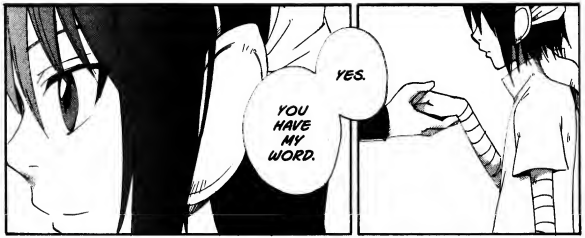
VIRID!

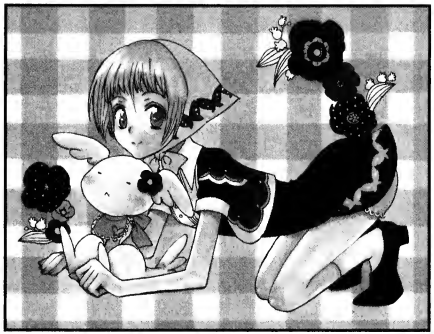
WAIT! PROMISE ME THAT...
...YOU WILL BE COMING BACK!


YES.
YOU HAVE MY WORD.

BUT I'M CERTAIN I CAN HANDLE THIS MUCH BETTER NOW.
BESIDES...

DON'T WORRY! EVERYTHING WILL BE OKAY.
I AM GOING TO TALK OPENLY WITH MY BROTHER THIS TIME.
IN THE PAST, I HAVE BEEN FAR TOO SELFISH...

...IF I RUN AWAY WITHOUT EVER TRULY KNOWING MY BROTHER...
...I AM SURE TO REGRET IT LATER.



YOU HAVE IN HIM A VERY GOOD FRIEND.
YES, I KNOW.

YORIKO SUDA CONJURES UP A FUR-RAISING MAGICAL FAMILY COMEDY!

RIKU OF THE LITTER

AND YOU THOUGHT YOUR FAMILY REUNIONS WERE CRAZY?!

Riku joins his whacky long-lost family in the mythical land of Yamato and finds he's got a few new siblings! One cat, two rabbits...? Sounds more like a zoo than a home! He may be new in town, but Riku's pledged to lead the family business to the top--and no sneaky competitors, smart-mouthed cats, or mysterious magic is about to stop him!

T TEEN AGE 13+

COMEDY

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: WWW.TOKYOPOP.COM

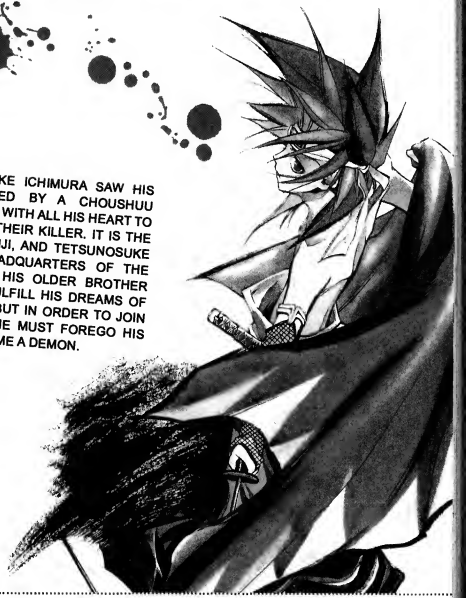
TOKYOPOP MANGA SUPPLEMENT

PEACE MAKER
ピースメーカー

TOKYOPOP presents Nanae Chrono's original manga series that inspired the Peace Maker Kurogane anime

IS GETTING REVENGE WORTH THE PRICE OF SACRIFICING YOUR OWN HUMANITY?

AFTER TETSUNOSUKE ICHIMURA SAW HIS PARENTS MURDERED BY A CHOUSHUU ASSASSIN, HE VOWS WITH ALL HIS HEART TO TAKE REVENGE ON THEIR KILLER. IT IS THE FIRST YEAR OF GENJI, AND TETSUNOSUKE HEADS TO THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE SHINSENGUMI WITH HIS OLDER BROTHER TATSUNOSUKE TO FULFILL HIS DREAMS OF GETTING REVENGE. BUT IN ORDER TO JOIN THE SHINSENGUMI, HE MUST FOREGO HIS HUMANITY AND BECOME A DEMON.



OT SLIVER EAGEN AGE 16+

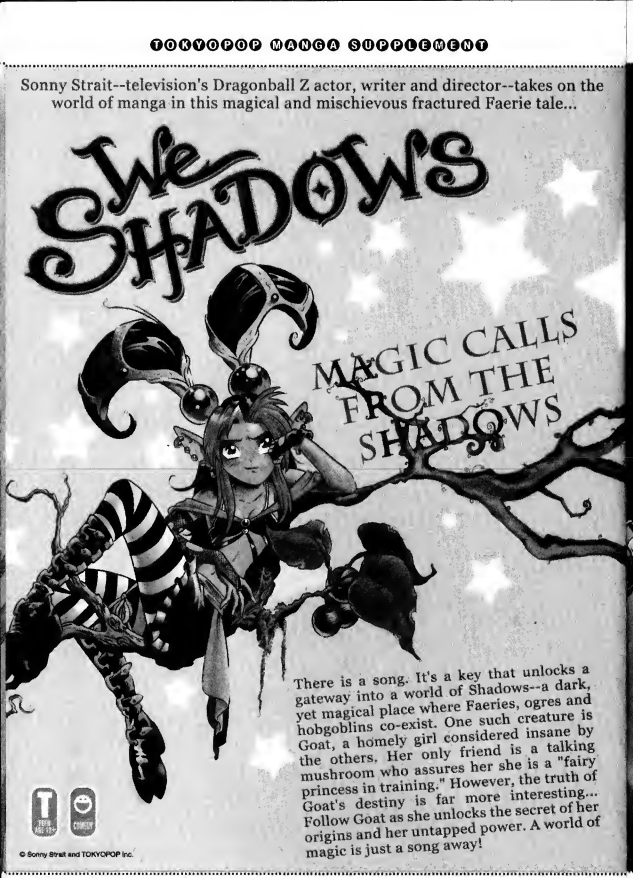
ACTION

© NANAE CHRONO

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: WWW.TOKYOPOP.COM

Sonny Strait--television's Dragonball Z actor, writer and director--takes on the world of manga in this magical and mischievous fractured Faerie tale...

We SHADOWS



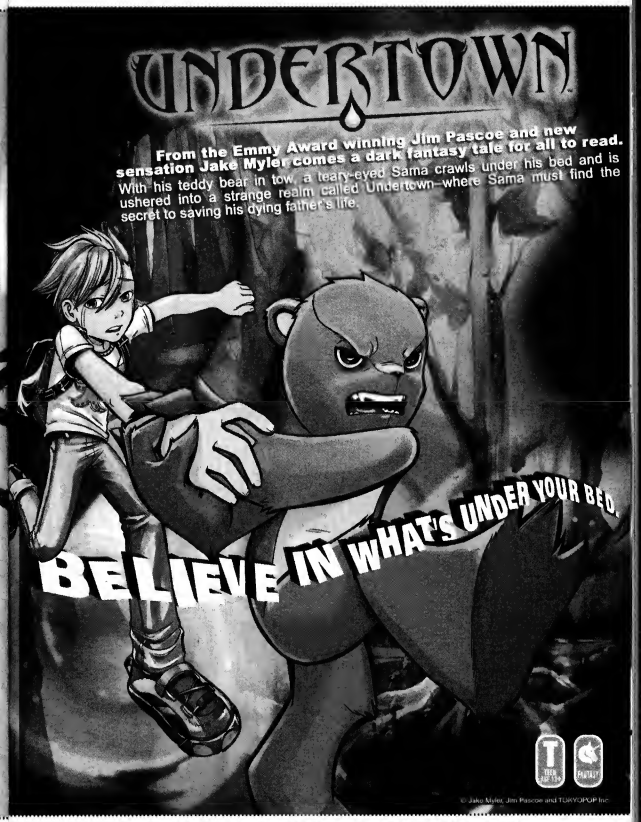
There is a song. It's a key that unlocks a gateway into a world of Shadows--a dark, yet magical place where Faeries, ogres and hobgoblins co-exist. One such creature is Goat, a homely girl considered insane by the others. Her only friend is a talking mushroom who assures her she is a "fairy princess in training." However, the truth of Goat's destiny is far more interesting... Follow Goat as she unlocks the secret of her origins and her untapped power. A world of magic is just a song away!

© Sonny Strait and TOKYOPOP Inc.

UNDERTOWN

From the Emmy Award winning Jim Pascoe and new sensation Jake Myler comes a dark fantasy tale for all to read.

With his teddy bear in tow, a teary-eyed Sama crawls under his bed and is ushered into a strange realm called Undertown--where Sama must find the secret to saving his dying father's life.



© Jake Myler, Jim Pascoe and TOKYOPOP Inc.

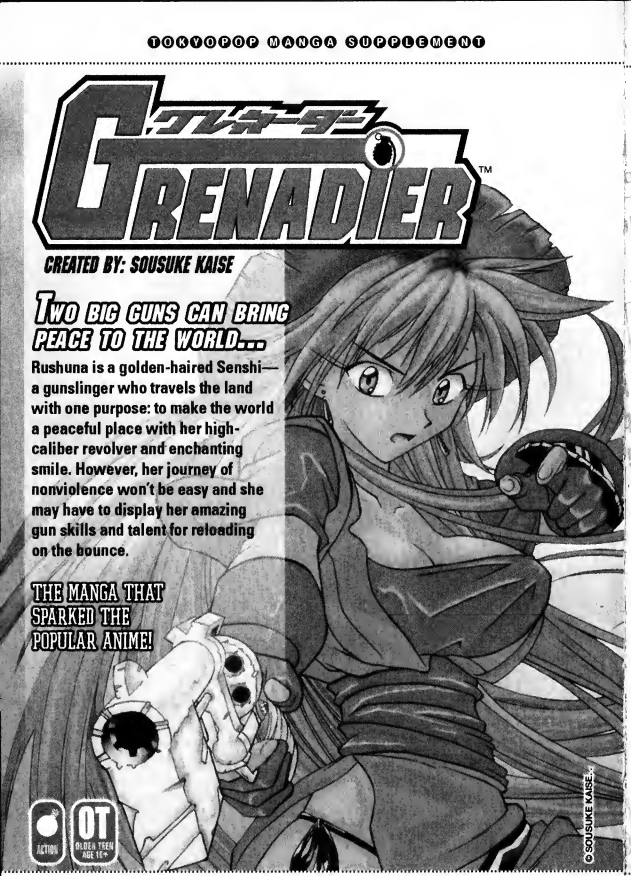
グレネーダー GRENADIER™

CREATED BY: SOUSUKE KAISE

TWO BIG GUNS CAN BRING PEACE TO THE WORLD...

Rushuna is a golden-haired Senshi—a gunslinger who travels the land with one purpose: to make the world a peaceful place with her high-caliber revolver and enchanting smile. However, her journey of nonviolence won't be easy and she may have to display her amazing gun skills and talent for reloading on the bounce.

THE MANGA THAT SPARKED THE POPULAR ANIME!



ACTION

OT OLDER TEEN AGE 16+

© SOUSUKE KAISE

The tag-team of Young-Bin Kim and Juder gives us a lesson on life, love, and the pursuit of...

Stand By Youth

When Hyungmo Yang fails his college entrance exams, he's got no choice but to enroll in an exam school. But when his family's tight on money, his classmates are unruly punks, and his best friend is the king of porn, passing the next exam will be anything but a walk in the park. Enter the beautiful but mysterious girl, Sora, whose voice alone brings hope to Hyungmo's dismal situation. But on the road of life, there are no right answers, so can Hyungmo get the grades...and the girl?

Multitasking will never be the same.

OT OLDER TEEN AGE 16+

COMEDY

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Kick The Kitty
HAH!
TRY IT!